

THE
S C H O O L:

BEING A SERIES OF
L E T T E R S,

BETWEEN
A Y O U N G L A D Y

A N D
H E R M O T H E R.

PART THE THIRD.

L O N D O N:

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THE
S C H O O L.

PART THE THIRD,

LETTER XXXII.

My dear Mamma,

I SHALL long remember yesterday as one of my greatest festivals: the morning brought me your letter, with the most agreeable account of your present state of health; and the afternoon a visit from your neighbour, Mrs. Moore, who kindly took the trouble of turning a few miles out of her road to call on me, and gave me above four hours of her company, before she proceeded on her journey. Nothing could be more delightful than her conversation, for she chose the subject nearest my heart, and

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treated

treated it to the satisfaction of that heart, which echoed back every truth she uttered. She confined not herself to general praise, but did you circumstantial justice what a series of noble and generous actions did she relate, as filling up the benevolent course of your life, wherein every day is distinguishing by some peculiar act of humanity, though all are uniform in goodness! With what delight did I listen to her discourse! With what ardour did I wish, or, to speak more properly, silently pray, to be enabled to imitate you! A few repining thoughts would sometimes intrude, and a sigh break forth, while I said to myself, Why must I be removed from so bright an example! from a parent whose every word and action would instruct me in all the knowledge that is valuable! Such living lessons, as must warm to virtue the coldest heart! What effect might they not have on mine, when the mere relation of them has kindled such a flame in it, that some sparks will force their way? though I fear offending you by expressing my sensations, as I know you.

“Do good by stealth, and blush to find it fame.” But my dearest mamma, pardon the irresistible impulse, and forgive Mrs. Moore, in consideration of the benefit that may accrue to your Maria, by having a conduct

conduct represented to her, which shall be her daily study : she will live on the recollection, and contemplate it till her soul is formed into the, may I not say, perfect model.—To the question, Mrs. Wheatly, advises us to ask ourselves before we perform any action. “What would I wish another to do by me in this case?” I will add, “and what would my mamma do on this occasion?” Thus previously questioned, surely I could not do wrong; if I should, how great would be my condemnation! the very thought frights me; and, if I continue the subject, from serious I may grow melancholy, and my apprehensions would give you pain; therefore I will suppress my fears, which I pray may be groundless.

HISTORICAL CATECHISM.

LESSON LIII.

Quest. How old was Alexander when Philip his father died?

Ans. Twenty years of age : but rendered more ripe in judgment than in years, by the excellent education he had received : his father having placed him under the best tutors that could be procured, among
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whom

whom was the renowned Aristotle; but Alexander's actions evince that ambition, and the love of (false) glory, are passions too strong for philosophy to conquer; for instead of seeking the pleasures of learned leisure with a taste for which we may suppose his philosophic tutor would endeavour to inspire him; his whole life was spent in war; actuated by an insatiable thirst for conquest.

Q. What was his first expedition?

A. The Triballi, the Getæ, and other nations, which bordered on Macedonia, and had been subdued by Philip, were encouraged by his death to attempt the recovery of their liberty, and united against his successor; but Alexander in a short time deprived them of their hopes, and reduced them to submission. He then turned his arms against Greece.

Q. Which of the Grecian states first felt his power?

A. Thebes: the Thebans on receiving the news of Philip's death, had not only joined in league with the rest of Greece against Alexander, but had slain part of the Macedonian garrison, which Philip had placed in the citadel.

Q. In what manner did Alexander treat them?

A. When

A. When he appeared before the walls of Thebes, he only required to have the two chief actors in the murder of the garrison delivered up; and published a general pardon to all the Grecians that would come over to him; but the Thebans rejected his demand, and gave him battle, wherein all their valour could not resist the superior numbers of the Macedonians; they were defeated, the city was taken, plundered, and destroyed; and Alexander having set at liberty those who had adhered to the Macedonian interest, and the descendants of Pindar the poet, sold all the rest into slavery.

Q. Did Alexander treat the other Grecian cities with like inhumanity?

A. No: judging that he had sufficiently intimidated the Grecians, he exacted no other sacrifice from the Athenians, than the banishment of one man, Caridemus by name; and having procured himself to be chosen by the Grecian states, commander against the Persians; he returned into Macedonia.

Q. Did he continue long there?

A. No longer than was requisite to regulate the affairs of his kingdom, (over which he appointed Antipater as viceroy) and to distribute large donations to his friends; these were so very considerable, that

Perdiceas, one of his captains, asked him "*What do you reserve for yourself?*"— "*Hope,*" replied Alexander: "*The same hope,*" said Perdiceas, "*ought therefore to satisfy us;*" and refused his share in his prince's bounty. This done, Alexander marched to Sestos; and, crossing the Hellespont, landed at Abydos in Asia, at the head of only about thirty thousand foot, and four or five thousand horse.

Q. Where was he first met by the Persian army?

A. In Phrygia, on the banks of the River Granicus, through which Alexander led his army to the attack, though the Persians; above three times his number, were drawn up in battle array on the opposite banks; and he entirely defeated them.

Q. When was the battle of the Granicus fought?

A. 334 years before Christ.

Q. What progress did Alexander make after this victory?

A. During the course of that summer, he subdued the greatest part of Asia Minor; no place making any considerable resistance to his arms except Halicarnassus, a city in Caria; which, having taken, he entirely razed.

Q. In

Q. In what manner did he begin the following summer's campaign?

A. After reducing the rest of Asia Minor, he marched into upper Asia; but arriving much fatigued and heated at Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, through which the River Cydnus runs, he was tempted by the clearness of the stream to seek refreshment by bathing, but had no sooner entered the river than he was seized with a shivering, and was carried into his tent in a fainting fit, to which a severe illness succeeded, wherein he was reduced to the utmost extremity; but he was no sooner recovered, than he advanced towards Darius, who met him near the city of Issus, in Cilicia. The narrowness of the place favoured the Macedonians, who were prodigiously inferior in numbers to the enemy, and Alexander gained a complete victory. Darius fled with the utmost precipitation, and his camp, wherein were his wife, his mother, and his son, then a child, was left at the conqueror's mercy, who treated the princesses with the utmost generosity.

Q. Was the booty taken in the camp very great?

A. The greatest part of the riches, which Darius had brought into the field, were deposited in the city of Damascus; but this, in a short time after, fell into the

hands of the conqueror, together with a great number of Persian ladies of the greatest quality, many of them of the blood royal. In that city were taken three hundred and twenty nine of Darius's concubines, all well skilled in music; for this prince's conduct, while in the field, had been that of a voluptuary, rather than a warrior; nothing could be more splendid and sumptuous than his camp and equipage; wherein he was imitated by most part of his officers; and the success was such as might be expected from all that pomp and pageantry.

LESSON LVI.

Q. What became of Darius after the battle of Issus?

A. He fled in the utmost precipitation with very few attendants to the city of Sochus, distant two or three days journey from the scene of the late action; and from thence he wrote a letter to Alexander in such haughty terms, as procured him an answer in the like strain, and each side determined to continue the war; but for this Darius was but ill prepared; for having collected together the remains of that almost

most infinite army he carried into the field, they amounted only to four thousand men.

Q. What progress did Alexander make?

A. Having with ease reduced all Syria and Phœnicia, except Tyre, he advanced towards that city, into which the people refused him admittance, though they offered him presents and refreshments. This refusal offended the haughty conqueror; but as the situation of Tyre was a stronger defence than art could have provided, he sent ambassadors to propose an accommodation, but they being killed by the Tyrians, he laid siege to the city; and, after seven months of great labour, and frequent disappointments from the vigorous defence made by the besieged, he took it by storm, slew the people, and destroyed the city, whereby the prophecies pronounced by Isaiah and Ezekiel, against Tyre, were fully accomplished.

Q. To what place did Alexander march after the reduction of Tyre?

A. To Jerusalem: actuated by strong resentment against the Jews, who had refused to submit to him; alledging, that having taken an oath of allegiance to Darius, they could acknowledge no other sovereign while he lived.

Q. Did Alexander make them feel the effects of his wrath?

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A. No:

A. No : the priests cloathed in their sacerdotal habits, went out to meet him, and were received by him with great veneration. They shewed him the prophecies concerning him in Daniel ; and from thence assured him of success. Having granted considerable privileges to the Jews, he advanced to the city of Gaza, which he took, notwithstanding the brave defence made by Betis the governor of it, whom, with the inhabitants of Gaza, Alexander put to death in the most cruel manner, and from thence marched into Egypt.

Q. Was he equally successful there ?

A. The Egyptians desirous to change their master, bearing an inveterate hatred to the Persians, submitted without resistance. But if his conquest gave him little trouble, his insatiable vanity set him a very laborious task. Determined to leave with the title of a demi-god, the country he entered only as a mortal conqueror ; he traversed very extensive, sandy deserts, (exposed to all the inconveniences of a scorching sun, himself and soldiers almost expiring with thirst) to the temple of Jupiter Ammon, in Libya ; where the priest having been properly bribed and instructed, declared him to be, by the testimony of the God himself, the son of Jupiter ; a title this vain-glorious prince ever after assumed.

assumed. In this journey Alexander chose the spot for a new city, and gave directions for the building of it; giving it the name of Alexandria, and it afterwards became the capital of the kingdom of Egypt.

Q. What was Alexander's next expedition?

A. Having passed the winter at Memphis, whither he had retired on his return from the temple of Jupiter, and spent that season in settling the affairs of Egypt, and establishing a government there; as soon as the spring favoured the prosecution of his great object, he marched against Darius; whose propositions of peace having been rejected, he had raised a still more numerous army than he brought into the plains of Issus.

Q. Where did the two armies meet?

A. In a plain at some distance from Arbela: where, after a very obstinate engagement, Alexander gained a complete victory, though the army of Darius consisted of near seven hundred thousand men, and that of Alexander fell short of fifty thousand.

Q. When was the battle of Arbela fought?

A. In the month of October, in the year of the world, 3673; and 331 years before Christ.

Q. What course did Darius take after this defeat?

A. He fled into Media: while Alexander, pursuing his good fortune, took the cities of Arbela, Babylon, Susa, and Persepolis, with the immense treasures they contained; after which he marched in pursuit of Darius to Ecbatana, but was there informed that the unhappy king had left the city five days before. On this information, Alexander continued his march, and after some days, came up with the body of Darius, who, betrayed, and mortally wounded by Bessus, one of his generals, was dead before Alexander reached him.

Q. In what year did Darius die?

A. 330 years before Christ, the year following that wherein the battle of Arbela was fought.

Contrary to my usual method, I have transcribed the last lessons I learnt in the historical catechism, before the exercises; but I rather think the change of method is for the better, and for reasons not worth repeating, it is most convenient to me. One of my school fellows was desired to give an account of what passed at the city of Sidon, after it came into Alexander's possession, which she executed as follows:

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The Sidonians, sensible that they were not in a condition to resist the victorious arms of Alexander, obliged Strato, their king, to surrender the town, which his fidelity to Darius strongly inclined him to defend to the utmost. The conqueror did not think he could safely leave him invested with the sovereign power; he therefore dethroned Strato, and gave his favourite Hæphestion liberty to appoint him a successor.

Hæphestion had been courteously entertained at the house of two young men of the first consideration, in that little kingdom, and, as an acknowledgment worthy the favourite of the greatest monarch in the universe to bestow, he offered them the crown, but they both refused it, telling him, that the laws of the country forbade any man to ascend the throne who was not by birth of the blood royal. This answer could not fail of surprizing a man who was running the race of the most insatiable ambition, with his vain-glorious master. Voluntarily to forego power and grandeur, was the effort of a greatness of soul above Hæphestion, or Alexander himself. Filled with admiration, "Generous, heroic youths," said he, "you, who have first shewn how much more glorious it is to refuse, than to wear a crown; recommend

“mend to me, at least, some one of the
 “royal family, who, no less generous than
 “yourself, may acknowledge with just
 “gratitude, that he owes his greatness to
 “your virtue.”

As it was well known that the throne of Sidon was at the disposal of Hæphestion, many paid an assiduous court to him, in hopes to obtain it by servile adulation, and importunate solicitations; such persons could not fail of being despised by the two noble brethren, to whose nomination their generous guest had submitted his choice; they therefore told him they knew none more worthy than one Abdolonymus, a man of the royal blood, but so poor, that he lived on the produce of a little garden near the city, which he diligently cultivated with his own hands; and having received permission to bestow the diadem on him, they went to the garden, carrying with them the royal robe.

They found Abdolonymus industriously at work, his attention having been so wholly engrossed by his labours, that he even knew not that the enemy had approached the city; no object of notice to the rapacious soldiery, he in peace cultivated the little spot which honest labour had rendered fertile, while the richer sort were lamenting their lost wealth, or trembling

bling at the threatened depredations. The brothers, on their approach, saluted him king, and desired him to pull off his tattered garments, and suffer them to cloathe him in the regal mantle. "Leave, said they, the indigence in which thou hast grown old; assume the spirit with the habits of a king, and carry with thee to the throne, those virtues which have rendered thee worthy of it; and when thou art seated thereon, and possessest supreme power over the lives and properties of thy subjects, let not the state, wherein we find thee be obliterated from thy mind; but remember, it is to the merits of thy virtuous poverty, that the crown is this day given."

Abdonymus could not easily be persuaded, that so great an elevation was really intended him; and complained of the undeserved insult offered him by this treatment, as the disparity between his birth and fortunes could afford no just occasion to jests and mockery. At length, the young men finding he did not prepare to comply with their requests, threw the royal mantle of purple and gold over his shoulders; and strengthening their assurances of respect and sincerity, with the most solemn asseverations, they led the astonished Abdonymus into the presence of Alexander. The monarch viewing him attentively, said,

said, "Thy person doth not disgrace thy birth, but I should be glad to know with what temper of mind thou didst bear thy poverty?"—"May the gods grant me strength," replied Abdolonymus, "to support my exaltation with equal fortitude and patience! These hands supplied all my necessities; and, while I possessed nothing, I wanted nothing."

Alexander was so well pleased with this answer, that he not only gave him every thing valuable that had belonged to the late king, but annexed several adjacent provinces to the kingdom of Sidon.

Mrs. Wheatley observed, that the apprehensions implied in Abdolonymus's answer to Alexander were just, as prosperity exposes man to the trials most threatening to his virtue. "In poverty," said she, "honesty and patience are only endangered; but, in the rich and powerful, every virtue is assaulted: pleasure, in every shape, makes strong attacks on his temperance and his moderation; flattery, undermines his humility; ambition, and avarice assail his justice; and the man, if he will hold fast his integrity, must undergo a continual warfare: a dangerous contest! Glorious, indeed, if he conquers! but great as will be the reward, who would not fear to engage in such a combat?"

“combat? Whoever could undertake it
 “without apprehensions, must have too
 “much presumption to be likely to come
 “off conqueror; in this sort of war, fear
 “best prognosticate’s success.”

Miss Lenthall is recalled home, and kindly solicits me to accompany her; will you, my dear mamma, give me leave to pass a few days with her? In such company they cannot be unusefully spent, at least I think so: but if you are of a different opinion, I shall make my inclinations conform to your’s, for I cannot wish what you do not chuse, conscious, that you best know what is most eligible for, my dear mamma, your tenderly affectionate and dutiful daughter,

MARIA MILTON.

L E T T E R XXXIII.

Mrs. Milton to her Daughter.

My dear Maria,

IF I did not know you to be far above all cunning, I should suspect you of the most efficacious art; you practice the true science of female government, and, “by
 “submitting

"submitting sway." I tremble for your husband's supremacy, if ever you marry; for you are so ready to relinquish the indulgence of every inclination, that it is impossible for any one who has the power, not to endeavour to give you the gratification you are so willing to forego. You will enslave him by acquiescence; and the poor man will have so little business for his prerogative, that it will be thrown aside among other useless things; till, should he ever find occasion to recollect where he has lain it, there will be no small difficulty in disengaging it from the lumber with which it is confounded. However, I cannot attribute to the power of your compliance my consent to your going home with Miss Lenthall, and to your regulating the time of your continuance with her by your own inclination; for, independant of the gratification I feel in indulging you, it yields me great pleasure. The character you have given me of her, makes me look on her friendship as a most desirable acquisition; and, if I did not wish you to secure it, I should act very inconsistently with my usual ardour, to procure you every real good.

The common casual intimacies, (often miscalled friendships) though founded only on a concurrence of tastes, accidental agreement, or trifling conveniencies, such as are
most

most juvenile attachments, and, indeed, frequently those of riper years, are not without their pleasures; they at least amuse, and, in some degree, interest the mind; yet not always without bad consequences, as a communication of folly sometimes attends them: but I consider the friendship of a truly worthy person, as the most valuable treasure this world can afford us. When two good people are closely linked in virtuous amity, they mend each others hearts. They emulate each other in every virtue wherein either excels. As esteem for their respective good qualities, gave birth to their affections, so those affections in their turn, increase their esteem for the good qualities, and give them a double charm. What each sees so amiable in her friend, she wishes to acquire, not only for it's own sake, but to fix the good opinion of that friend. They also earnestly endeavour to correct their faults, conscious, that although they might be hidden from the cursory observation of the world, yet they cannot be concealed in so intimate a connexion. Thus each becomes to the other an example of good, and a corrector of evil. Practice and conversation refine their virtues; their minds open, their views extend, their hearts grow warmer; and what was, possibly, at first, only a small spark, kindles

kindles to a flame; and every grace and virtue ripens daily on to perfection. The delight which arises from so great a benefit received, makes them wish that their friendship may extend through all eternity; this desire stimulates them to endeavour to render themselves objects of divine favour, and as little unworthy of a state of endless bliss, as the frail condition of humanity will permit. They are alike vigilantly watchful over their own and their friend's purity of mind, as being equally necessary to this darling hope; and, if in the one any virtue seems to droop, as even virtues are subject to vicissitude, the other, with tender care, and anxious solicitude, endeavours to raise it to its former height, as part of the foundation whereon their favourite wish was built.

You may, my dear Maria, think me enthusiastic on this subject, and, perhaps, I am so; but I confess I never could look on a friendship that could exist only in this world as a very desirable connexion; since the death of that friend (an event only to be prevented by our own) will make us pay very dearly by many years of sorrow, for the pleasure we enjoyed in her society. What consolation can the world afford us for the eternal loss of what constituted our chief happiness? Every separation from those
those

those we love must be a grievous affliction, but our state is not comfortless, if we can think the term will not be long, and that we shall meet in the mutual enjoyment of everlasting felicity, never to part again.

It is true, this expectation may not be fulfilled; it is possible we may not, in the next world, know each other; but, surely, it is not unreasonable to believe, if we and our friends deserve here to be included among the just, we may there distinguish them among the spirits of just men made perfect, whose society is proposed as the object of our desire. But, should it be otherwise, it is a proof that our happiness there will be so perfect, that to know each other would bring no addition to it, and that will secure us from disappointment at an error, which here is so great an increase to our pleasure, while we enjoy the company of our friends, and the only consolation when they are taken away from us: of this I am certain, it is much to be wished that none should engage in a friendship they do not hope should last through eternity; the foundation for the attachment must then be good; and the effects of it most salutary and happy.

I acknowledge that the benefits I have supposed to arise from such a friendship, might, and ought, to flow from a higher cause.

cause. 'To know that a virtuous life is acceptable to our Creator, should be a sufficient incitement to virtue; the desire of living for ever in his presence, contemplating and adoring his excellence, should make us, with the utmost ardour, pursue the course most likely to recommend us to so great a degree of favour; but most people's experience, I fear, will afford sufficient conviction, that the affections are most apt to be engaged by present objects; and that distant blessings (as we are apt to esteem those of another life, though falsely, the shortness of this considered) are too easily excluded from our thoughts by every trifle that offers us immediate amusement. An object above the conception of our understandings, is apt to attract us less than one more level to our ideas; and, though our ultimate aim is where it ought to be, it is greatly desirable that the intermediate objects should be such as in their effects entirely concure with it. Such are the friendships I have spoken of; they are fitted to the comprehension of our narrow minds; and powerful supports to our weak virtue.

I fancy you did not expect, that your purposed visit should produce so grave a letter; but, my sweet girl, I know your heart to be susceptible of strong and tender affections, and, if your attachments are not
seriously

seriously begun, they will have serious consequences. As to a mind like your's, the chief part of your happiness in this life, and, perhaps, much of it in the other, must depend on your friendships; I would wish them to be commenced with caution and prudence, that you may neither be drawn into inconveniencies by a continuance of your attachments, nor incur the charge of levity by breaking them. Nothing more justly renders our sex ridiculous, than the instability of their friendships; yet, in reality, it ought not to be charged on inconstancy of temper, but on rashness and inconsideration. We too often engage in them without thought, attracted by some agreeable quality, and never examine whether the person is possessed of the virtues necessary to constitute a good friend; experience brings with it a painful conviction of the errors in our choice, and we are reduced to withdraw disgracefully from that intimacy, into which a little previous consideration would have prevented us from entering. The other sex escape this seeming levity, because either their passions or business exclude the purer affections from their hearts; men have their intimacies and connexions, but real friendship is seldom found amongst them, at least, not after their early youth: and, surely, though it
may

may be more safe, it is less amiable to be destitute of disinterested affection, than to dispose of it rashly.

You may perceive that I think this folly of our sex will admit of palliation, yet I would gladly arm you against it. Were you entering into an unworthy attachment, what I have said might have been received with prejudice, thinking it bore the air of reproof; therefore I have chosen a time when my advice coincides with your inclination, and while it warns you against rashness in the election of any future friend, recommends to you an endeavour to gain the affection of Miss Lenthall; and you will excuse my gravity on the subject, when I tell you that I look on the choice of a friend as one of the most *important*; and, therefore, it should be one of the most *serious* acts in our life.

As when you are on a visit, your time cannot be your own; I shall not expect to hear from you so often as I have hitherto done; put not yourself, therefore, under any difficulty or constraint, when I miss the pleasure of hearing from you, I shall make myself amends by thinking you were agreeably entertained, a thought that will give the highest satisfaction to my dear Maria. Your most tenderly affectionate mother.

F. MILTON.
LET.

LETTER XXXIV.

Miss Milton to her Mother.

My dear Mamma,

IN consequence of your kind indulgence I came to Mr. Lenthalls five days ago; but do not imagine that my not having told you so before, is occasioned by my taking advantage of your permission; I should ill understand my pleasure if I suffered any amusement to prevent my writing to my dear Mamma. The want of opportunity to convey a letter has been my only impediment; for the post town being at a considerable distance, Mr. Lenthall sends thither but once in a week, a very mortifying circumstance to me, who longed to return my thanks for your kind, and, I hope, useful letter. The important light in which you represent friendship, is well suited to the warmth of my youthful heart, which feels no small gratification in finding its enthusiasm countenanced by your's; and, I hope the caution you recommend, will so far repress its ardour, as to preserve me from any attachment, till I have duly examined into the merit of the person; my judgment is too likely to err, but I shall

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endeavour

endeavour to avoid rashness, by a frequent perusal of your letter. When I find my fancy taken by any little agreeableness that suits my taste, I will read it by way of antidote against the poison concealed under trifling attractions. There is nothing wherein I am more likely to want a guide and guard, my heart being naturally inclined to attach itself strongly. Every part of Miss Lenthall's conduct inclines me to believe that here I may safely give it the reins.

She was received at home with great joy, and her's was rendered complete by seeing her father and brother perfectly recovered. Having been more fully informed of the nature of the legacy left her by her uncle, she sent the next day for a lawyer, as it was supposed, to make her will, and that, indeed, was part of his business; but she, at the same time, made him draw up an irrevocable deed, whereby she secured to her mother, in case she survives Mr. Lenthall, the interest of ten thousand pounds for her life; and the entire disposal of two thousand out of the ten, that she may, as Miss Lenthall told her, have the power of supplying, out of the principal, any deficiency in her income; or of shewing some token of regard and remembrance to any friends she might leave behind her. Miss
Lenthall's

Lenthall's will is not less dutiful, she has bequeathed three thousand pounds in legacies; and the interest of seven thousand from the time of her death to that of her father's, as his income is considerable; but, if her mother is the survivor, she is to enjoy the interest of the whole 17000*l.* and at her death, it is settled on Master Lenthall.

Miss Lenthall had not mentioned her intention to her mother, lest her generosity should induce her to make any objections, and greatly was she surprized, when her daughter presented her the deed. Many tears followed the perusal of it, and much she intreated to have the sum reduced to one half, but in vain.

When this scene was over, Miss Lenthall came into my room, "Now," said she, "I experience the value of my uncle's kindness; it has enabled me to secure to my mother, a competency for her life, which it was before too possible she might want; but my pleasure is not without alloy; I feel myself enslaved my independence; I can never assert a degree of liberty that might be allowed to a child, without seeming to presume on my fortune; and yet, if I know myself, duty will always be a stronger motive with me than interest; I am shackled

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" with

“ with my fears of being thought assuming
 “ by my parents; I shall never have my
 “ mind at ease, till I have an opportunity of
 “ proving to them, that I am more impli-
 “ citly obedient than ever; I find myself
 “ like Polonius in Hamlet, ready to ac-
 “ knowledge any thing they please, to be
 “ either a whale or a weazle, as shall best
 “ suit their assertion; how destructive this,
 “ both to reason and truth.”

I combated her delicacy as well as I was
 able; and I believe at length convinced her,
 that the surest way to behave to the satis-
 faction of her parents, was to shake off
 those idle fears of offending them, for
 which she has no just grounds; and I have
 ventured to promise her, that as she takes
 no pleasure in her independance, she will
 soon, in great measure, forget it; but
 though I seemed to make light of her ap-
 prehensions, I confess they appear to me
 unavoidable; the independence of a child
 on its parents, is so unnatural, that it can-
 not sit easy on a right mind.

Mrs. Lenthall is near twenty years young-
 er than her husband, she brought him in
 marriage only a small fortune; by the death
 of relations it became considerable; but
 this not being settled, very little of it re-
 mains. She is a very sensible, worthy wo-
 man, and her daughter's partiality has so
 effectually

effectually recommended me to her favour, that she treats me with the openness and freedom of an old acquaintance. As Miss Lenthall has, ever since she first left Mrs. Wheatley's, taken upon her all domestic cares, and now applies to them more assiduously than ever, to shew she is not affected by her independent fortune, I have had several tête-à-têtes with Mrs. Lenthall, which she generally passes in expatiating on her daughter's virtues, a subject equally agreeable to us both.

Mr. Lenthall is about threescore, but does not look so old by ten years, though he has but imperfect health, being subject to frequent and violent illnesses, but, in the spaces between them, he is well, and his spirits are very great. He has the gaiety and gallantry of a young man; I believe, indeed, he very seldom, if ever, recollects he is an old one; and seems to have as much of the thoughtlessness as of the vivacity of youth. He enjoys a considerable patent place; but while he had any ready money, that would not suffice for his expences; when it was all spent, he found it necessary to retire from the former scene of action; but still dissipates much more than should reasonably be so expended. His inexhaustible fund of wit makes him esteemed an entertaining companion; but I

cannot enjoy it perfectly, for there will continually come across my mirth, that " toujours badiner à soixante ans, c'est hors de raison." Nothing can constitute a more amiable union than age and chearfulness, but I would wish the latter to receive a little dignity from the former. If the time that should be past in rational reflections, and prudent cares is all sacrificed to jesting; mirth loses those charms which it wears in the social hour, when we know that essential duties have first been properly attended to. I cannot admire the wit which has rendered a man insensible to the injury he was doing two most excellent women, whose happiness he was bound, by the tenderest ties, to promote, while he was, by idle dissipation, exposing them (probably in a short time) to all the distresses of poverty; yet such must have been the case, had it not been for the late happy event. The wit, which would be a most agreeable talent in conversation, becomes despicable, if it is the governing principle.

But, perhaps, the thoughts of what my friend might have suffered, makes me a little morose, so I will leave the subject, and insert the school catechisms, learnt after I wrote my last letter to you.

H I S-

HISTORICAL CATECHISM.

LESSON LV.

Q. Did Macedonia all this time enjoy the sovereignty over Greece unmolested?

A. No: the Lacedemonians engaged the greatest part of Peloponesus, to unite their endeavours towards throwing off the ignominious yoke; but Antipater, viceroy of Macedonia, defeated the allied army, in a battle, wherein Agis, king of Lacedemon was slain; and Greece again submitted to the dominion of the conqueror.

Q. What course did Alexander take after the death of Darius?

A. He reduced Parthia, Hyrcania, and their adjacent countries: but temperance and regularity no longer reigned in his camp. Alexander had, indeed, conquered the Persian armies, but the Persian luxury had conquered him; drunkenness and riot shared his hours with martial employments, but could not enervate him, his haughty spirit was, by his excesses, frequently heated into rage and brutality, though it could not be sunk into softness, the natural consequence in one of gentler mould.

Q. To what actions of Alexander's do you allude?

A. In an intemperate feast he set fire to Persepolis; and, during his pursuit of Bessus, he caused Philotas, one of his bravest commanders, and his father Parmenio, the noblest, and most faithful of all his servants, to be put to death, on an unproved accusation of a conspiracy against him; and, after a victory obtained over the Scythians, and the taking and putting to death of Bessus, at a feast where both the king and his guests were too much intoxicated to restrain the freedom of speech within the necessary bounds of prudence, he killed, with his own hand, Clitus, one of his oldest and best captains, who had saved his life at the battle of the Granicus.

Q. Did Alexander feel no compunction for this cruelty?

A. Reflexion on the ungrateful return he had made for the numerous services Clitus had performed, both to himself and his father Philip, his zealous attachment to him, his steady valour, and great age, cast him into such deep affliction, that, for some time, he refused to take any nourishment, and it was with great difficulty his friends prevailed on him to live.

Q. Had this sorrow, for a time so violent, any lasting good effect on Alexander?

A. So little, that soon after having subdued several of the small principalities dependent

pendant on Persia, and preparing for an invasion of India, he endeavoured to prevail with his army to acknowledge his asserted descent from Jupiter, by paying him divine honours; which being opposed by Calisthenes, a man famous for the philosophic turn of his mind, and the gentleness and purity of his manners; he had him falsely accused of a conspiracy, and caused him to suffer death after enduring the most cruel torments.

Q. What success attended Alexander in his expedition into India?

A. He found there no very strong opposition, except from Porus, who gave him battle on the banks of the Hydaspes, but met with the usual fate of Alexander's enemies, his army being defeated, and himself taken prisoner; but the conqueror, charmed with his magnanimity, not only restored him to his kingdom, but made considerable additions to it, at the expence of the neighbouring princes. Alexander was desirous of passing the Ganges, but his soldiers, averse to so fruitless a fatigue, prevailed with him to relinquish the design; he went, however, as far as the ocean, where he offered sacrifices to Neptune, and then returned into Persia.

Q. Did not Alexander marry at Susa?

C 5

A. Yes.

A. Yes : he there married Statira, eldest daughter to the deceased Darius, and gave her younger sister in marriage to his favourite Hephæstion. At Ecbatana in Media he lost this favourite, who died by excess of drinking at a feast given by the king. Alexander's grief was immoderate ; but he sought consolation from war, attacking the Cossæi, a very hardy, and, till then, an almost invincible people, who inhabited the mountains in Media. When the Cossæi were reduced to acknowledge his power, he went to Babylon.

Q. In what manner did he employ himself in that city ?

A. He there interred the body of Hephæstion, which he had before sent thither, and celebrated his funeral with such an extravagance of pomp, that he is said therein, and in the monument he erected to his memory, to have expended above one million, eight hundred thousand pounds. He procured him to be declared by the oracle of Ammon, a demi-god, and raised altars to him.

Q. How long did Alexander stay at Babylon ?

A. Almost a year : nor did he ever leave it, for before the year was expired, he lost his life by the same means that had occasioned the death of his favourite. Immoderate.

derate drinking brought on a fever, of which he expired in the thirty third year of his age.

Q. Did he appoint any successor?

A. No: when he was asked to whom he bequeathed his empire, he replied, to the most worthy.

Q. In what year did Alexander die?

A. In the year 323, before Christ.

HISTORICAL CATECHISM.

LESSON LVI.

Q. What followed immediately on the death of Alexander?

A. After some days spent in tears and lamentations, for the loss of that prince, the chief commanders in his army chose Arideus, by some called Philip, his brother, the natural son of Philip, to succeed him; appointing, that if Roxana, the widow of Alexander, should bring forth a son (she being then pregnant) he should be associated on the throne by his uncle.

Q. Were the merits of Arideus the cause of his election?

A. On the contrary, he owed his exaltation to his imbecillity. The chief commanders severally aimed at the sovereign

power; but, as no one had either sufficient superiority of merit, or of forces, to exclude the rest, they all concurred in the choice of Arideus, who could be no more than a cypher, his intellects having remained particularly weak, from the time of an indisposition with which he had been afflicted in his infancy, by some authors, attributed to a poison given him by Olympia, who feared, from his amiable disposition, that he might prove a dangerous rival to her son Alexander.

Q. In what manner were Alexander's conquests divided?

A. The government of Thrace and the adjacent regions was given to Lyfimachus; those of Epirus, Macedonia, and Greece, to Antipater and Craterus. Egypt, and Alexander's other conquests in Africa, were assigned to Ptolomy, the son of Lagus. Asia was divided among a great number of the captains of the deceased hero.

Q. Name the chief of them.

A. Lycia, Pamphylia, and the greater Phrygia were consigned to Antigonus; Caria to Cassander; Lydia to Menander; the lesser Phrygia to Leonatus; Armenia to Neoptolemus; Cappadocia and Paphlagonia to Eumenes; Syria and Phoenicia to Laomedon; one of the Medias to Atropates; the other to Perdicas, to whom also
was

was committed the care of the king's person, under the titles of guardian and regent. Persia was given to Peucestes; Babylonia to Archon; Mesopotamia to Arcefilas; Parthia and Hyrcania to Phrathernes; Bactria and Sogdiana to Philip. The upper Asia and India were left under such governors as Alexander had appointed.

Q. Where was Alexander interred?

A. At Alexandria, with great splendor.

Q. Had Roxana a son?

A. Yes: she was delivered of one soon after the death of Alexander, and he was called by his father's name. He was, according to the agreement, associated with Arideus, a mere nominal royalty; and little worth preserving by the criminal means Roxana used, who fearing Statira, the widow of Alexander, might likewise be with child, invited her, with her sister, the Relict of Hæphæstion, to a banquet; and, in concurrence with Perdiccas, poisoned them both.

Q. In what manner was the news of Alexander's death received in Greece?

A. The Athenians were elated to the greatest degree, and determined on immediately shaking off the Macedonian yoke. They prevailed with all the Grecian states, Thebes excepted, to join in the enterprize, and, contrary to the advice of Phocion, began

began the execution of it with hasty rashness.

Q. What was their success?

A. They twice defeated Antipater, but were afterwards conquered by him, and obliged to submit to such terms as he required. He new formed their government, changing it into an oligarchy, and banished a great number of citizens.

Q. Who was the most lamented among those that became the victims of Antipater's resentment?

A. Demosthenes: as much celebrated for his zealous love of his country, as for his eloquence. At the first breaking out of this war he was in exile; in consideration of his generous endeavours to bring the other Grecian states into the alliance proposed by Athens, he was recalled, and received by his fellow citizens, with the warmest joy and acclamations; but on the ill success of their enterprize, they condemned him, with their other orators, to death; and being pursued by some of Antipater's Emipanes, into the island of Calauria, whither he had fled for refuge, he poisoned himself to avoid falling into their hands. After his death the Athenians were lavish of the honours so justly due to his memory.

Q. Did Alexander's successors continue long in peace with each other?

A. No:

A. No: their mutual jealousies soon broke out in open war, wherein one of the first who perished was Perdiccas, being assassinated by some mutineers in his own army; and Antipater succeeded him as guardian to the king. He gave the government of Babylon to Seleucus.

Q. Did Antipater long enjoy the regency?

A. No: he lived but two years after he obtained it, and at his death bequeathed that office to Polysperchon, only associating his own son Cassander with him.

Q. Did Cassander peaceably acquiesce in this bequest?

A. On the contrary, he treated it as an injury done him by his father, who had herein preferred the welfare of his country to the partiality so natural to a parent. Alexander, the son of Polysperchon, restored the ancient Democratical government to Athens, and the first use the populace made of their power, was to condemn Phocion, the honour and guardian of their state, to death. After this act the city fell into such confusion, that it submitted to Cassander, who appointed Demetrius Phalereus an Athenian, to be their governor, reserving the citadel to himself, which was blockaded by Polysperchon.

Q. Did Cassander remain in the citadel?

A. No:

A. No: his ambition had more extensive views. Olympias, the mother of Alexander the great, had made herself mistress of the government which ought to have been in the hands of Polysperchon, and caused Arideus (or Philip) to be put to death, after having borne the title of king for six years and four months, exercising the like cruelty on Eurydice his consort, Nicanor, the brother of Cassander, and an hundred of his principal friends. Cassander immediately besieged her in Pydna, and having taken the city, put her to death, confined the young Alexander, and his mother Roxana, and seized the crown of Macedon.

Now, my dear mamma, I have only to add a lesson of the geographical catechism, and then must bid you adieu.

GEOGRAPHICAL CATECHISM

LESSON XIII.

OF GERMANY.

Q. How is the empire of Germany situated?

A. Between 45 degrees 4 minutes, and 54 deg. 40 m. of north latitude, and 23 deg. 30 m. and 36 deg. 52 m. of east longitude;

side; it is bounded on the north by the Eider and Baltic, on the east by the Polish Prussia, Poland, and Hungary, taken in its largest sense; to the south by the Gulf of Venice, Italy, and Switzerland; and on the west by France, the united provinces, and the northern or German sea.

Q. How is Germany divided?

A. Into ten circles, which are as follows: First, Austria, wherein is the arch-dutchy of Austria, the dutchies Stiria, Carinthia, and Carniola; the counties of Tyrol, Gorz and Bregenz, the bishopricks of Trent and Brixen.

Q. What towns are there in the arch-dutchy?

A. It is divided into upper and lower Austria, the principal town in the former is Linz, in the latter Vienna, where the emperor resides. Stiria in like manner is divided into upper and lower Stiria, wherein are the towns of Gratz and Judenburg.

Q. Are Carinthia and Carniola divided in the same manner?

A. They are: in the upper are the towns of Clagenfurt and Villach; in the lower Laybach. The chief town of the county of Gortz bears the same name; that of Tyrol is Inspruck; and that of Bregen, Costanz.

Q. What do the bishopricks contain?

A. The

A. The principal towns in them are, Trent and Brixen, bearing the same name as the bishopricks.

Q. Does the circle of Burgundy remain still entire?

A. The French have from time to time brought the greatest part of this circle under their dominion, but what still belongs to the house of Austria is as follows: part of Brabant, wherein are the towns of Louvain, Brussels, Antwerp, and Mechlin.—Part of the dutchy of Limburg, with a capital of the same name.—Part of the dutchy of Gelders, the principal town therein is Roermond, belonging to the house of Austria; the city of Gelders having been ceded to the king of Prussia at the peace of Utrecht, in the year 1713.—Part of Flanders, wherein are the towns of Ghent, Bruges, and Ypres.—Part of the county of Hennegau, the chief city in which is Mons.—The county of Namur, with the city of the same name.

Q. How is the circle of Westphalia divided?

A. This circle, which is called the lower Westphalia, or lower Rhenish Westphalian circle, to distinguish it from Westphalia itself, and the dutchy of that name, contains the bishopricks of Munster, Paderborn,

derborn, Liege, and Osnabruck, the capitals of each bearing the same name.

Counties.	Chief towns.
March.	Hamm.
Nassau.	Hadamar.
Shauenburg.	Stadthagen.
Lippe.	Lemgo.
Ravensberg.	Bielefeld.
Oldenburg.	Oldenburg.
Delmenhorst.	Delmenhorst.
Bentheim.	Bentheim.
Tecklenburg.	Tecklenburg.
Lingen.	Lingen.
Hoya.	Hoya.

Principalities.	Chief towns.
Minden.	Minden.
East Frisland.	Norden.

There are likewise in this circle the imperial cities of Cologne, Aix la Chapelle, and Dortmund.

Q. What does the Electoral Circle, or the Lower Rhine contain?

A. The lands of the elector of Mentz, the archbishoprick of Triers or Treves, with towns bearing the same names; the archbishoprick of Cologne, chief town Bonn; the dutchy of Westphalia, chief town Brilon, the Palatinate of the Rhine, chief town Heidelberg.

Q. What does the circle of the Upper Rhine comprehend?

Bishopricks.

Bishopricks.

Worms.

Spire.

Straßburg.

Basel.

Fulda.

Dutchies.

Simmern.

Deux Ponts.

Counties.

Waldeck.

Hanau-Munzen-
berg.

Upper Ysenburg.

Hesse Cassel.

The principality of Nassau, chief town Dietz.

—In this circle are the imperial cities of
Worms, Spire, Frankfort, Friedberg, and
the imperial town of Witzlar.Q. What are the principal places to be
taken notice of in the circle of Swabia.

The Dutchy of

Wertemberg.

The bishopricks of

Costanz.

Augsburg.

The Abbey of

Kempton.

The Margravates of

Baaden in gene-

ral..

Chief towns bearing
the same names..

Chief towns..

Corlack.

Hanau..

Ysenburg..

Marburg.

Chief towns.

Stuttgart.

Mersberg.

Dellingen.

Rastadt, Baaden and

Durlach and Bur-

gan.

The

Landgravates of	}	}	Chief towns bearing the same names.
Baar.			
Kiettgau.			
Nellenburg.	}	}	Chief towns bearing the same names.
The Priory of Ell-			
wangen.			
Lower and upper	}	}	Chief towns bearing the same names.
Hohen-Zollern.			
The counties of			
Oettingen.	}	}	Chief towns bearing the same names.
Truchfefs.			
Montfort.			
The Bifhoprick s of	}	}	Chief towns bearing the same names.
Ulm.			
Mindelheim.			
Schwabeck.	}	}	Chief towns bearing the same names.

In this circle are the imperial cities of Augsbürg, Ulm, Efzlingen, Reutlingen Nordlingen, Hall, Ueberlingen, Rothweil, Heilbronn, Ganund, Memmingen, Lindau, Dinkelsbuhl, Bibernach, Ravensburg, Kempten, Kauffbeuren, Weil, Wangen, Yfni, Leutkirch, Wimpffen, Giengen, Pfulendorf, Buckhorn, Aalen, Bopfingen, Buchau, Offenburg, Gengenback, and Zellam-Hammersbach.

If time would permit me to make any additions to this long letter, reason and moderation would not allow me to say more, than that I am ever, my dearest mamma's most dutiful and affectionate,

MARIA MILTON.

LETTER XXXV.

My dear Mamma,

WHEN I accompanied Miss Lenthall home, I assured Mrs. Wheatley I should return within three weeks, and I am again under her roof, before that term is quite expired; I believe I should have completed it, if the arrival of some of Mr. Lenthall's relations had not provided me a convenient means of getting home in one of their carriages, which in its return was to pass this way, and at the same time made me apprehend that I should not find much pleasure in prolonging my stay, as Mrs. and Miss Lenthall must be much engaged with their visitors. They kindly, however, insisted on my promising, with your permission, to repeat my visit, and found little difficulty in prevailing on me to comply. Miss Lenthall, likewise, gave me her word, that it should not be long before I should see her again at Mrs. Wheatley's, and we settled a correspondence for the intermediate time. Thus we alleviated the pains of parting; and, indeed, such consolations were necessary.

A detail

A detail of the manner in which we passed our time, though greatly agreeable to me, would be tedious in recital; and, as my absence obliged me to omit some of the businesses of this place, my time is a good deal taken up in recovering what I have lost; and my friends here do not so readily consent to my absenting myself at leisure hours, as when I am not a stranger: therefore I believe I must proceed directly to the school catechisms, and exercises.

HISTORICAL CATECHISM.

LESSON LVII.

Q. I shall not require you to enumerate all the battles that were fought between Alexander's ambitious successors, as they rather serve to confound than instruct the reader; but was Olympias the last of the royal family that fell a sacrifice to that thirst of power which then seemed almost equally to actuate those contending princes?

A. By no means: Eumenes the bravest, wisest, and best of all Alexander's captains, whose loyalty to his master's family was not to be shaken either by fear or ambition, being delivered by his mutinous soldiers into the hands of Antigonos, and by him
put

put to death; the wives and children of that late mighty conqueror, were left a prey to those merciless and brutal men, who owed to Alexander the power they cruelly used to destroy all he held dear. Cassander put to death Roxana, and the young Alexander her son. Barfina and her son Hercules, natural son to Alexander, received the like treatment from Polyperchon; and Cleopatra, the sister of Alexander, was put to death by Antigonus. Such were the consequences of insatiable ambition! a mad desire of universal conquest brought Alexander to an untimely grave, in the very vigour of his age, and exposed all his nearest kindred to violent death. Had he been contented with the kingdom he inherited, he might have lived honoured, beloved, and happy, to a respectable old age, and have left a numerous and flourishing progeny to succeed him on the throne; "But the Lord scattereth the proud in the imagination of their hearts."

Q. Had these commanders, who thus violently contended with each other for the spoils of this murdered family, yet assumed the title of kings?

A. No: the first to whom it was given was Demetrius Poliorcetes, the son of Antigonus.

Q. Where? and on what occasion?

A. At

A. At Athens, on his driving out the garrison Cassander had placed in the citadel, and restoring the Democracy. But this was a small part of the adulation offered him by the Athenians. They gave to Antigonus and Demetrius the appellation of their tutelar deities; and abolishing the magistracy of the Archon, they elected a priest to those new divinities, in whose name all acts and decrees were passed. They consecrated the spot on which Demetrius first descended from his chariot, and erected an altar on it; with many other pieces of flattery equally fulsome.

Q. What became of Demetrius Phalereus, who had then governed Athens ten years with extraordinary wisdom, integrity, and humanity?

A. He was safely conveyed by Demetrius Poliorcetes to Thebes; the statues that had been erected to him by the gratitude, or flattery of the people, to the number of 360, were all thrown down by them; and a decree passed, whereby he was condemned to death, though absent.

Q. Was Thebes in a condition to protect him?

A. It had been rebuilt under the protection of Cassander, and with the assistance of the Athenians, and was become in beauty, though not in power, equal to its former

mier state. But though the Athenians gave the title of king to Demetrius and Antigonus, those princes did not publicly assume it till after the former had defeated Ptolemy's fleet, and taken the isle of Cyprus. The rest of these contending powers soon followed their example, and assumed the diadem.

Q. In what year was this ?

A. In the year 306, before Christ.

Q. What was Demetrius's next military undertaking ?

A. The siege of Rhodes, which continued a year : and though he was at last obliged to desist from his enterprize, and make peace with the Rhodians, on terms the most honourable for them ; yet he acquired great glory from the extraordinary skill and conduct with which he had carried on the attack, and thereby rendered it one of the most famous enterprizes of antiquity.

Q. Were the successes of Demetrius permanent ?

A. Far otherwise : Ptolemy, Seleucus, Cassander, and Lyfimachus, growing jealous of his success, entered into a league against him ; and in a battle near the city of Ipsus in Phrygia defeated his army ; his father Antigonus was slain, and Demetrius himself obliged to retire to Ephesus. He hoped to find shelter in Athens, but that city

city, which had in so servile, and even impious, a manner flattered him in his prosperity, now shut its gates against him. After this battle, the confederate princes divided among themselves all the conquests of Alexander.

Q. In what proportion?

A. To Ptolomy, surnamed Soter, was assigned Egypt, Libya, Arabia, Cœlosyria, and Palestine: to Cassander Macedonia and Greece: to Lyfimachus Thrace, Bithynia, and some other provinces beyond the Hellespont, with the Bosphorus: all the rest of Asia, to the other side of the Euphrates, and as far as the river Indus, was given to Seleucus Nicator, and under him comprehended in the appellation of the kingdom of Syria. These four kings are foretold in the prophecy of Daniel, as the four horns of the he goat, which succeeded in the place of the first horn that was broken.

Q. When was this division among the four kings completed?

A. 300 years before Christ.

Q. What became of Demetrius after being thus divested of his kingdom?

A. When this division was made there still remained a few places in the possession of Demetrius and his son Antigonus; nor were they entirely deprived of all when the

troubles in Macedonia offered them a resource.

Q. What occasioned those troubles ?

A. Cassander being dead, his two sons, Antipater and Alexander contended for the crown. Thessalonica, their mother, favoured the younger, which so enraged the brutal Antipater, that he killed her with his own hands. Alexander hereupon solicited the assistance of Demetrius, and of Pyrrhus, the young king of Epirus. Demetrius discovering, or pretending to have discovered, that Alexander harboured designs against his life, put him to death; and the Macedonians, from their detestation of Antipater, gave the crown of Macedonia to Demetrius.

Q. Did he long keep possession of it ?

A. Only seven years : when preparing to invade Asia, the other princes entered into a confederacy against him, Lysimachus and Pyrrhus divided between them the greatest part of Macedonia, (which the latter was soon after obliged to relinquish) and Seleucus overcame Demetrius in a battle, took him prisoner, and he died in his confinement.

LESSON LVIII.

Q. What passed at this time in Egypt?

A. During the imprisonment of Demetrius, Ptolomy Soter, desirous of transmitting his throne to Ptolomy Philadelphus his son, by Berenice, in prejudice of Ptolomy Cerannus, his son, by Eurydice, and the eldest of his male issue, resigned the crown to him, whereupon Cerannus quitted the court, and retired to Lyfimachus, whose son Agathocles had married Lysandra, the sister of Cerannus.

Q. Did Ptolomy Soter live long after the resignation of his crown?

A. Only two years : and the first action of his successor, after he was no longer awed by his father's presence, was to put to death, by the bite of an aspic, Demetrius Phalereus, very highly esteemed by the deceased king, who had made him president of an academy of sciences he had instituted, and keeper of the famous library he had founded ; but this great and worthy man had offended Philadelphus, by advising the old king not to obstruct the natural right of his eldest son to the throne.

Q. Of all Alexander's captains, I think there remained at the period you have now reached, only two.

D 3

A. No

A. No more : and their lives were now drawing towards a fatal end. Lyfimachus, after the marriage of his son Agathocles, with Lyfandra, had himself espoused another daughter of Ptolomy's, named Arsinoe, by whom he had several children. These princesses had contrary views, and were assiduously endeavouring to form a powerful party, for the support of their separate interests, in case of Lyfimachus's death. When Cerannus arrived at that court, Arsinoe, apprehensive that his presence would add great strength to Lyfandra, took the most criminal means of weakening her party, for, by persuading the old king that his son Agathocles had conspired against his life, she prevailed on him to cause the innocent prince to be put to death. So atrocious a cruelty terrifying Lyfandra, she, with her children, and her brother Cerannus, fled to Seleucus, intreating his protection and assistance against their enemies.

Q. Did he grant their request ?

A. He led an army against Lyfimachus, who, giving him battle in Phrygia, was slain in the engagement, and Seleucus remained possessor of all his dominions.

Q. Did he long enjoy the glory of his conquest ?

A. Only seven months : having resigned the greatest part of his dominions to his son

son Antiochus, he set out to take possession of Macedonia, but was, on his road, assassinated by Ptolomy Cerannus, to whom he had granted refuge, as already mentioned, in his distress, and conferred many obligations on him.

Q. How did the death of Seleucus Nicator turn to the advantage of Cerannus?

A. The Thracians and Macedonians accepted Cerannus as their king; but he, apprehending the powerful party that remained attached to Arsinoe, pressed her so strongly to marry him (such marriages not being uncommon in Egypt, their native country) that she, fearing, lest her two sons (beautiful youths, the one sixteen years of age, the other but thirteen) should fall a sacrifice to his resentment, if she persisted in her refusal, at length consented, and they were married with all possible solemnity: but her care was vain; Cerannus, very soon after their nuptials, caused the two princes to be murdered in the arms of their mother, who was herself immediately dragged out of the city with the utmost indignity, and banished into Samothrace. So soon did divine vengeance punish her for the death of the innocent Agathocles.

Q. Did the crimes of Cerannus escape with impunity?

D 4

A. No:

A. No: the Gauls finding their own country too populous, sent out a great number to seek a more commodious settlement: a body of them entered Macedon, defeated the army of Cerannus, took him prisoner, and cut off his head.

Q. What success had the Gauls after this victory?

A. They were defeated by Scsthenes, one of the chief of the Macedonians, who, for some time, maintained himself on the throne of Macedon; but after his death, Antiochus Soter, the son of Seleucus Nicator, and Antigonus Gonatus, the son of Demetrius Poliorcetes, asserted their respective titles to that crown; but after some contention, Antiochus relinquished his claim, and gave Phila, the daughter of Seleucus and Stratonice, to Antigonus in marriage, who remained in peaceable possession of the throne, and destroyed all the Gauls that were then in Macedonia.

Q. When did Antigonus Gonatus come to the crown?

A. In the year 277, before Christ.

Q. What was the most remarkable of Ptolemy Philadelphus's actions at this time?

A. He set at liberty all the Jews who were then in slavery in his dominions, paying the value of them to their masters.

Their

Their numbers are computed at an hundred and twenty thousand, exclusive of children. He then procured from the high priest seventy two of the most able Jewish elders, to translate the Old Testament out of Hebrew into the Greek tongue, which translation is now called the Septuagint, from the number of those who performed it; though the word, in reality, means only seventy.

Q. Did not Pyrrhus, king of Epirus, make a considerable figure at this time?

A. He was one of those princes whose boundless ambition robbed both himself and others of the blessings of peace, from an inordinate desire of false glory. He had been engaged in the wars of Greece and Macedon, but these were too narrow limits to satisfy his ambition; he therefore gladly complied with the request of the Tarentines, then at war with the Romans, who solicited his assistance, as it gave him an opportunity of carrying his arms into Italy.

Q. With what success?

A. He defeated the Romans in a pitched battle, and ravaged the country as far as within fifteen leagues of Rome. He then proposed an accommodation to the Romans, but they refused to treat with him till he was returned into Epirus. He after-

wards gained another victory over them, but at so great an expence of men, that he observed to his friends, that such another victory would ruin him. He found himself unable to continue the war, yet could not prevail with the Romans to enter into any treaty with him.

Q. What did he do in this dilemma?

A. An invitation from the Sicilians, to assist them in driving the Carthaginians out of their principal cities, afforded him an honourable pretence for leaving Italy.

Q. Was he more successful in his new enterprize?

A. He soon made himself master of the whole island; but disgusting the Sicilians by his insolence and injustice, they entered into a league with the Carthaginians, their late enemies, and were preparing to turn their arms against him, when the Tarentines again demanding his assistance he left Sicily, where he could no longer stay with safety, under pretence of hastening to the aid of his former allies. Ill fortune followed him; he was defeated by the Romans, and obliged to return to Epirus with his shattered forces, after six years absence.

Q. In what year was this?

A. In the year 274, before Chr. st.

Q. What princes then reigned in Syria and in Egypt?

A. Antiochus

A. Antiochus Soter in Syria, and Ptolemy Philadelphus in Egypt.

SCHOOL EXERCISES.

One of the young ladies undertook to relate a strong proof of the tender affection Seleucus bore to his son Antiochus.

Seleucus, after he was advanced in years, married a very beautiful woman, by name Stratonice, the power of whose charms were more sensibly felt by his son Antiochus. Despair accompanied the first discovery of his passion; and, whatever imprudence he was guilty of in suffering it to gain so much strength, that he was no longer able to conquer it, yet he had prudence enough to conceal it, even from his most intimate friends, as well as from the object that had inspired it; but though he kept his criminal secret inviolable, he could not conceal the ill effects it had on his health. He was seized with a lingering distemper; his strength consumed daily; and, as the cause of his decay could not be discovered, the physicians saw no means of applying relief; they judged his case desperate, and dared not even to flatter his afflicted father with any hopes of his recovery.

Erasistratus, the king's principal physician, from observing the melancholy with which the prince was oppressed, began to suspect some secret grief was the occasion of his distemper, and finding all endeavours to prevail with him to declare it were fruitless, he determined to trust to his own discernment for the discovery, and watched him with a zeal, which compassion for the prince's condition, and the very great distress of his anxious father inspired. Antiochus's youth inclined the physician to suspect that love was the secret cause of his illness. He stayed constantly in his room, observed his countenance, and felt his pulse, on every person's entrance into his chamber; and perceiving the same alterations made in both, whenever Stratonice visited him to enquire the state of his health, he became convinced that she was, in reality, the object of his passion.

When he was thoroughly confirmed in this opinion, he took the first opportunity, that, being alone with the prince afforded, to prevail with him to confess the truth of his observation. Antiochus was no longer able to deny it; he acknowledged that he did, indeed, entertain the most ardent passion for his fair mother-in-law, but had determined never to disclose it, adding, that sensible how criminal his affection was, he had

had endeavoured by every means to conquer it, but all that reason, honour, or duty to his father could suggest, were unavailing; and, he had at length determined, by abstaining from every kind of food, to expiate his crime by his death.

Erasistratus had not so curiously searched into the cause of his patient's distemper, but from the desire of applying a remedy; yet the affair was of a very delicate nature, and seemed difficult to effect. The next time Seleucus asked him after the health of his son, the physician declared his disease incurable, because it proceeded from violent love of a woman he could not obtain. Kings do not willingly believe that anything is unattainable to persons invested with regal power. "Why is she not to be obtained," cried the king, "what impediment is powerful enough to prevent it?" "Her being my wife:" answered Erasistratus, "and I love her too tenderly to resign her to another."—"What," replied the king, "will you not part with her to save the life of a son so infinitely dear to me! Where is the friendship you have professed, if you will not give me a proof of it in a circumstance whereon my whole happiness depends!"—"Your majesty," said Erasistratus, "exacts too great a sacrifice; reflexion will convince
"you

"you of it; let me only entreat you to
 "consider my case as your own; though
 "Antiochus must be far dearer to you who
 "are his father than to me; yet would you
 "reign your Stratonice to him?"—"Yes,"
 replied the king, "would it save his life I
 "would with all my soul resign both my
 "Stratonice and my empire to him."—
 "His recovery, then," said the physician,
 "is in your majesty's hands, he loves Stra-
 "tonice."

Seleucus shewed he spoke with sincerity;
 he immediately divorced Stratonice, and
 married her to his son; her duty to the
 king, or, possibly, the preference she gave
 to a prince, whose age rendered him a con-
 fort more suitable to her, making it not very
 difficult to obtain her consent. Seleucus
 carried his generosity still farther, causing
 Antiochus and Stratonice to be crowned
 king and queen of Upper Asia, before he
 marched against Lyfimachus, being deter-
 mined, when he had finished that expedi-
 tion, to return into Macedonia, and pass
 the remainder of his life in that part of his
 dominions; a design frustrated by the
 treachery of Cerannus, by whom, as alrea-
 dy related, he was basely assassinated.

Mrs. Wheatley observed, that Antiochus
 deserved more to be blamed for suffering
 his passion to grow to so dangerous a height,
 than

than to be pitied for the effects of it ; for
 that, had he resisted it, as he ought, at its
 first birth, he would not have found the
 conquest so difficult. " This story," add-
 ed she, " should admonish us all to sup-
 press every criminal inclination the in-
 stant it arises, instead of giving it time to
 gather strength, which may baffle all
 our endeavours ; even Hercules might
 have been easily strangled in his cradle :
 so it is with our passions ; at first they
 are weak and very easily conquered, but
 we are apt never to attempt to subdue
 them till they are become gigantic, and
 then apply our weak endeavours against
 their herculean strength ; it is no wonder
 if we fail in an attack so imprudently
 timed. What should we say to a gene-
 ral, who gazed at his enemy, that was
 fortifying a town he intended to make
 himself master of, and wait supinely till
 the works were completed, before he
 attempted to storm it ? Such generals
 too many of us are. I shall pass over
 the generosity of Seleucus, for, however
 highly it is extolled by historians in mo-
 dern days, a wife may not be thought a
 present that requires so great an effort
 of generosity. Whether this difference
 in our opinion from ancient times, arises
 from the women's being less valuable,
 " or

“ or from the men’s not having so just a
 “ sense of their value, I leave the sexes to
 “ dispute. I wish you, my young friends,
 “ at least, to endeavour, by your conduct,
 “ to throw the blame on the other sex.”

Mrs. Wheatley then observed, that there were some incidents inserted by Historians in the life of Pyrrhus, which, though necessarily omitted in such an abridgement as our catechism, yet deserved to be remembered. Two of the young ladies said; they believed they knew what incidents she meant, and immediately took their pens to give her a proof of it, dividing the task between them: how they performed it you may yourself judge, by reading a few pages farther.

Cineas, a Thessalian, eminent both for his philosophy and eloquence, was greatly favoured by Pyrrhus, who esteemed him on account of his wisdom, which afforded him rational entertainment in his leisure hours, and had been of very considerable service to him in his affairs; and, therefore, he admitted him to all the freedom of conversation. The philosopher was too wise to approve the unbounded ambition of the youthful monarch, and wished to reason him into a more just way of thinking. With that view, when preparations were making for Pyrrhus’s expedition into
 Italy,

Italy, he one day said to him, "Should
 " the gods be propitious to your majesty's
 " designs against the Romans, and grant
 " you a conquest over them, what advantage
 " would you derive from it?" —
 " Were the Romans subdued," answered
 Pyrrhus, " all Italy would be our's." —
 " Suppose it were," said Cineas, " what
 " would be the consequence?" — " Oh!"
 replied Pyrrhus, " the island of Sicily would
 " not then be difficult to conquer; and you
 " are not ignorant of the importance of
 " that country." — " Would that acquisition
 " end your martial enterprizes?" said
 Cineas. " No: certainly," answered the
 king with eagerness, " all we have yet
 " mentioned would be but small preludes
 " to far greater conquests; to force all the
 " several states of Greece to submit to our
 " sway, to recover our ancient kingdom of
 " Macedon, to subdue Carthage, and all
 " Africa, would be a glorious employment
 " for our arms." — " But when we have
 " arrived at this height of power, and have
 " nothing more to conquer, what then
 " shall we do?" asked Cineas. " We will
 " then," replied Pyrrhus, " indulge in
 " all enjoyments that peace, ease, festivity,
 " and social converse can afford us." —
 " And what prevents our doing that now?"
 said Cineas; " why should we impose on
 " ourselves

“ ourselves so laborious a task, in order, at
 “ last, to do what is now equally in our
 “ power ?” Reason spoke by Cineas, but
 ambition was stronger than philosophy,
 and Pyrrhus continued his martial course,
 rather with the restlessness than the conduct
 of an hero.

“ The generality of readers, I believe,”
 said Mrs. Wheatley, “ are on Cineas’s side
 “ of the argument, when they peruse this
 “ dialouge ; yet, in action, most of us fol-
 “ low the example of Pyrrhus, so far as to
 “ forego the enjoyments that are in our
 “ power, in pursuit of things that, when
 “ attained, will make no addition to our
 “ happiness. Nor is this so irrational as we
 “ are apt to imagine ; there is no state in
 “ this life that can by any means fill our
 “ ideas of happiness ; while we have distant
 “ attainments in view, hope sooths us with
 “ its pleasing flattery ; possession convinces
 “ us of the deceit ; but some other pursuit
 “ arises, and the same deception returns,
 “ and, as Mr. Pope says, Man never *is*,
 “ but always *to be* blessed.”

“ Hope is the cordial drop heaven in our
 “ cup has thrown,
 “ To make the nauseous draught of life go
 “ down.”

“ When

“ When a future state of eternal happiness is the pursuit, then alone there is no
 “ fear of disappointment; hope will then
 “ be well lost in enjoyment; its way is a
 “ way of pleasantness, and its end will be
 “ a felicitous peace. Even this course has
 “ its various mediate pursuits, which all
 “ tend to the same goal.

“ Man has so much activity in his nature, that his thoughts prey on his own
 “ heart, if he is not kept in action. Trifling
 “ pursuits afford him amusement, and
 “ at least retard his growing weary of himself;
 “ but the truly rational one I have mentioned,
 “ gives strength to his mind, and peace to his heart,
 “ exercises his most useful talents, and keeps him in a
 “ continual exertion of the best affections in
 “ his nature; and while he wisely aspires
 “ still higher, yields him all the happiness
 “ that can be enjoyed in this world.”

The other young lady then produced the following exercise.

No man, I think, in this war between Pyrrhus and the Romans, makes so noble a figure as Fabricius, who was placed at the head of an embassy, sent by the senate to that prince. Pyrrhus had been truly informed, that wisdom was all his riches; but to that greatness of soul, which desires no other wealth, Pyrrhus was a stranger.

He

He therefore endeavoured to tempt him by the offer of power and wealth, to attach him to his service, promising him the first place in his councils. But Fabricius, who considered a Roman senator as far superior to the prime minister of the greatest monarch, saw no allurements in these offers; and told the king, that, "Although, indeed, his poverty was such that he could only procure the necessaries of life by the laborious cultivation of a small spot of ground, yet it did not lessen him either in the eyes of the republic, or in his own; on the contrary, he esteemed his poverty honourable, since he had been invested by his country with several employments, wherein he might have acquired wealth, but had always chosen to enrich his soldiers, while he shared with them only in glory; and, as his poverty did not deprive him of the means of acquiring honour and serving his country, he could never consider it as an evil."

So noble a disinterestedness increased Pyrrhus's desire to gain him over to his service, but he found it impossible. Fabricius was the next year elected consul, and commanded the army opposed to Pyrrhus, which gave him an opportunity of confirming the esteem that prince had conceived for him. Pyrrhus's physician wrote
a letter

a letter to Fabricius, wherein he offered to deliver them from so dangerous a war by poisoning the king, if the Romans would promise him a reward adequate to the service he should hereby render them. Fabricius abhorring so infamous a treachery, sent this letter to Pyrrhus; who, sensibly touched by the generosity of an action, which, in reality, was only just, restored, without ransom, all the prisoners he had taken, and made fresh overtures of peace. The Romans disdained receiving any thing like a payment for abstaining from a crime; therefore, on their side, returned all the prisoners they had made in the war; but persisted in their resolution of entering into no treaty with Pyrrhus till he had quitted their territories.

Mrs. Wheately observed, that the great honour Fabricius acquired by forbearing a most treacherous action, is no small proof of the depravity of mankind; and is a strong evidence of the improvement the christian religion has made in the manners of men, though many of its precepts are most shamefully neglected; for should any prince now take off his enemy in such a way as was here proposed, he would be branded with infamy to the most distant ages. "Not," added she, "but one who acted
"in such a case, like Fabricius, would still
"be

“ be much applauded, for, as every man
 “ does not do his duty, he who does is sure
 “ of receiving praise, even beyond his me-
 “ rit. And this, surely, should be a great
 “ encouragement to us to act rightly, since
 “ we are honoured for performing a duty,
 “ which is, at the same time, thought so
 “ incumbent upon us, that we cannot omit
 “ it without incurring severe censure ; thus
 “ we are rewarded not only for doing good,
 “ but for the negative merit of abstaining
 “ from doing evil.”

If I have been idle, I think, my dear
 mamma, the quantity I have sent you shews
 the school has not been so ; and, to avoid
 remaining behind them in business, I must
 set to work with double spirit, but, had I
 time, it would be unreasonable to add any
 thing more from myself, than assurances of
 my being ever my dearest madam, your
 most dutiful and affectionate

MARIA MILTON.

LET-

LETTER XXXVI.

From the Same to the Same.

I DO not find the least temptation to regret my visit to Miss Lenthall, on any other account than its depriving me of leisure to pour out, with my usual freedom, all the sentiments of my heart, to my dear mamma. The increase of application, in order to recover lost time, is no grievance, and gives me an useful lesson, by shewing me how difficult it is to recover such losses. I shall learn from it something better than can be taught at a boarding school, if it will prevent me from indolently throwing away any part of so precious a treasure, for a loss so incurred will generally prove irreparable, as the indolence of disposition which occasioned it, will be an unsurmountable bar to that increase of industry which it has rendered necessary. The debt, at first lightly contracted, becomes difficult to discharge; discouraging apprehensions of the labour, brings on new omissions, till they accumulate to so great an amount, that like persons deeply involved in pecuniary debts, we are afraid of examining
into

into an account, which we are hopeless of settling to our satisfaction; and to avoid the pain of self-reproach, and of anticipating by our fears the evil consequences which must arise from our imprudence, we even squander away the remainder in the means we use to drive our past extravagance from our thoughts, till we really become insolvent debtors; distressed, and hopeless of relief. Happily my case is not so desperate; as I was not led by indolence to neglect my business, I find no difficulty in endeavouring to make up for my omissions, and think the labour a very small task for the pleasure that occasioned it; yet I feel no little mortification at being obliged to suppress all I would wish to write to you, and only give you a copy of what has engrossed my time.

HISTORICAL CATECHISM.

LESSON LIX.

Q. Did such a series of disappointments damp the ambitious spirit of Pyrrhus?

A. It had no such salutary effect: he was no sooner returned home than he invaded Macedonia, defeated Antigonus, and subdued the greatest part of that kingdom; but,

but, before he had put his new conquest into a state of tolerable security, he turned his arms against Sparta, at the instigation of some disaffected persons in that country.

Q. Was his success answerable to his hopes?

A. By no means: he failed in his attempt to take Sparta, which was so vigorously defended against him, that the women shared almost equally with the men, both the labour and the danger of the defence. From thence he went to Argos, in order to take advantage of a dissention which divided that city; Antigonus espoused the contrary party, and Pyrrhus having rashly entered it with some of his troops, he was killed by a tile, thrown from the roof of a house by a woman, with whose son he was then fighting.

Q. What year did Pyrrhus die?

A. 272 years before Christ.

Q. Did Antigonus recover Macedonia after the death of Pyrrhus?

A. He recovered it with great ease: and in a few years became a very formidable prince. Four years after the death of Pyrrhus he took Athens, and placed a garrison in the citadel.

Q. Who founded the kingdom of Pergamus?

E

A. Phileterus:

A. Phileteres : whom Lyfimachus had made Governor in that city, wherein he usually deposited his riches. Phileteres had acquitted himself with great fidelity in this trust, till he found that Arsinoe, offended at the grief he had shewn for the murder of Agathocles, designed to take away his life, which, in the year 283 before Christ, determined him to revolt, and he not only kept possession of the city, treasures, and adjacent country, but laid the foundation of a state, which became one of the most considerable kingdoms in Asia.

Q. Did Ptolomy Philadelphus engage in the continual wars which then afflicted the greatest part of the known world ?

A. He avoided it as much as possible, but his alliances sometimes obliged him to take part in the quarrels of others, out of which he always took the first opportunity of extricating himself. His chief employment was the encouragement of arts and sciences, and the extension of commerce, wherein he succeeded to a very great degree, and rendered his subjects rich, while the mildness of his government made them happy. The last war he was engaged in was with Antiochus Theos, king of Syria, who had succeeded his father Antiochus Soter, and this he concluded with a peace, in which one of the conditions was, that
Antiochus

Antiochus should divorce Laodice his wife, and exclude two sons he had by her, from the succession to his kingdom, and marry Berenice the daughter of Ptolomy.

Q. Did so iniquitous a marriage prove fortunate?

A. Very much otherwise: on the death of Ptolomy Philadelphus, Antiochus repudiated Berenice, and recalled Laodice, who actuated by resentment of the injury before done her, and fearing a repetition of it from the natural inconstancy of Antiochus, poisoned him; and when she saw him expiring, she placed in his bed a man that resembled him both in person and voice, who, pretending to be the dying king, recommended Laodice and her children to the care of his people, and declared her son Seleucus Callinicus his successor, who, by that deception, ascended the throne without opposition.

Q. What was the fate of Berenice?

A. She fled with her infant son to the city of Daphne, but, being besieged therein, they were taken and put to death, before the army her brother Ptolomy Evergetes led to her assistance could reach the place. He then employed his forces to revenge her death, and conquered a considerable part of Seleucus's dominions.

Q. Was this the only diminution of territory that he suffered?

A. By no means: when Seleucus found himself so powerfully attacked by Ptolomy, he promised his brother Antiochus, surnamed Heirax, to give him the sovereignty of the provinces, of which he was governor, on condition that he brought a considerable body of troops to his assistance. Antiochus, whose view was to take that opportunity of destroying his brother, spent so much time in making the stipulated levies, that Ptolomy, not chusing to contend with their joint forces, made a truce with Seleucus, who then refused to fulfil the engagement he had entered into with Antiochus. A war between the brothers ensued, during which, Eumenes, prince of Pergamus, seized good part of Asia Minor, rendering thereby his little state very considerable, and his successor assumed the title of king. Arsaces, likewise, who had before got possession of Parthia, conquered Hyrcania, and annexing it to Parthia, increased it to a very powerful kingdom.

Q. What was the event of the war between Seleucus and Antiochus?

A. Antiochus, no longer able to make head against his brother, fled into Egypt, where Ptolomy detained him many years in prison, and when, at length, he found means

means to escape, he was slain by a band of robbers, as he was leaving the kingdom.

Q. Was Seleucus more fortunate ?

A. Not long : after he had a little quieted the commotions in his kingdom, he attempted to wrest from Arsaces the conquests he had made at a time when his arms, being otherwise employed, he could not oppose him ; but he was defeated and taken prisoner by the Parthian king ; and, after about four years confinement, during which Arsaces had treated him with great respect and generosity, he died of a fall from his horse ; and was succeeded on his throne by his son Seleucus, surnamed Cerannus.

Q. Who reigned at this time in Macedonia ?

A. About two years before Seleucus's captivity, died Demetrius, the son of Antigonus Gonatus, after a reign of ten years, and leaving an infant son, named Philip, Antigonus, surnamed Doson, married the widow of the deceased king, and was appointed guardian to the young prince.

Q. In what year was this ?

A. In the year 232 before Christ.

LESSON LX.

Q. Did Greece continue in quiet subjection to the Macedonians all this time?

A. Though the spirit of the Grecians was much depressed by the slavery into which they were reduced by Philip of Macedon, and their courage seemed too often to have given place to the most abject adulation and servility, yet some sparks of their former fire were kindled by one great and good man, even in the reign of Antigonus Gonatus.

Q. To whom do you allude?

A. To Aratus of Sicyon, the son of Clinias, who fell a sacrifice to his desire of restoring Sicyon to its ancient liberty, of which it had long been deprived by a race of tyrants. When Clinias was murdered, Aratus, then but seven years old, took refuge in the house of the tyrant's sister, who being of a generous and noble nature, concealed the child, and caused him to be safely conveyed to Argos, where he was carefully educated, by some who had been friends to his father, till his twentieth year, when, with extraordinary courage and sagacity he drove the then tyrant of Sicyon out of the city, and restored it to its liberty, entirely without bloodshed.

Q. Could

Q. Could such a city as Sicyon long preserve its freedom near so potent an enemy as Antigonus ?

A. Aratus was sensible it could not, and therefore got it to be included in the Achæan League, that little republic, consisting of twelve small cities in Peloponesus, which, after expelling the several tyrants placed over them by the Macedonians, had united into one state, and had revived the ancient laws and government, which so long had made them revered in Greece, though their power had never caused them to be feared.

Q. In what manner did Aratus proceed ?

A. After having, with great equity and wisdom, quieted the seditions in his own city, being chosen general of the Achæans, he applied his endeavours to rescue all Peloponesus out of the hands of the Macedonians. He drove out of the citadel of Corinth, the garrison placed therein by Antigonus Gonatus, and gained other considerable advantages over that prince and his successors : but was, at length, obliged to make some alteration in his views, by a war that broke out between the Achæans and Spartans.

Q. Had the Spartans preserved, till that time, the ancient simplicity of their manners ?

A. By no means: they had long been corrupted, and all the vigor of their government lost, when Agis, a young prince of only twenty years old, the sixteenth in descent from the illustrious Agefilaus, attempted, about four years after Aratus had restored Sicyon to its liberty, to re-establish the laws and ordinances of Lycurgus.

Q. By what methods did he proceed?

A. Having engaged Agefilaus, his uncle, his mother, and grandmother, who were extremely rich, with many more of his relations and friends, to concur with him in his views, he prevailed with the people to pass a decree, for the abolition of all debts, and an equal partition of lands. The first part was executed, notwithstanding the opposition of Leonidas, his colleague on the throne, and a numerous party of his adherents; Agis setting the example, by being the first who threw into a public fire, made for that purpose, all the bonds, contracts, and securities, given by his debtors, to a very considerable value. But Agefilaus, who had consented to the designed reformation, only because he was much encumbered with debts, though his estate was great, found means to delay the execution of that part of the decree, ordaining the division of the lands, till Agis was obliged to leave the city, in order to command

command the army destined for the assistance of the Achæans.

Q. What passed in Sparta after the departure of Agis ?

A. Agesilaus, who was one of the Ephori, being no longer restrained by the authority of his nephew, committed so many acts of violence and oppression, that the people, exasperated by his conduct, recalled Leonidas, whom they had before banished, raising his son-in-law, Cleombrotus, to his place on the throne, and when the two kings returned they found Leonidas restored to his full power.

Q. What course could they then take ?

A. The adverse party was so strong, that even their persons were not safe, and they were reduced to seek refuge in a temple.

Q. Did it afford them the asylum they sought ?

A. Not to any purpose: though the sacredness of the altar was not openly violated. Cleombrotus, at the earnest solicitation of his wife, who was daughter to Leonidas, suffered no other punishment than exile; but Agis, betrayed by those who seemed most his friends, was, by such of the Ephori as were most inveterate against him, and assembled in an illegal manner, condemned to die, and, in pursuance of the

unjust sentence, strangled in his prison; as also was his mother and grandmother.

Q. Was Agis married?

A. He was: and to one of the most beautiful and wealthy dames in Sparta, by whom he left a child in its earliest infancy.

Q. What became of his widow?

A. Leonidas forced her to espouse his son Cleomenes, then a boy, to whom she behaved with the greatest respect and gentleness, though she retained the most inveterate hatred to his father. Cleomenes, on his part, felt for her the extremest regard and tenderness, and would join in tears with her for the cruel fate of Agis, for whose virtues she inspired him with the highest reverence and admiration.

Q. Did Leonidas long survive Agis?

A. Not above two years: and at his death he was succeeded by Cleomenes who was scarcely arrived at manhood.

Q. In what year did Cleomenes ascend the throne?

A. In the year 235 before Christ.

The young ladies undertook their exercises with particular pleasure this morning, as persons of their own sex bore so great, and so honourable a share in the facts they were to relate; and I so far enter into their sentiments, that I find a peculiar satisfaction in transcribing them. I am afraid there

there is some vanity in this, but if it be not justly founded, at least there is no great danger of its proving pernicious. I believe we are led into more evils by too mean an opinion of our own sex, than from esteeming them a little too highly. I fear I bear no more resemblance to Chelonida, than I do to Agis, therefore her virtues should as little affect my vanity, but, perhaps, I have in this case something of the too great zeal always to be seen in a persecuted sect; the contempt with which our sex is often, I hope I may say unjustly treated, keeps my pride in continual alarm, and conscious of no title to superior regard, I eagerly seize every instance of female merit, and when my sex is exalted, fancy myself as being one of it, intitled to some share of the honour. Possibly we are taught this kind of appropriation by the common practice of men, who generally end their complaints against one woman who happens to have injured, or displeased them, by bitter reflections on the whole female race; therefore I am only making myself some amends for their injustice. But you will suspect my sincerity when I said I should receive pleasure in transcribing these proofs of female merit, if I delay in this manner to begin the task;—to proceed therefore to my Heroine.

E. 6

Leonidas

Leonidas, colleague to Agis, king of Sprata, having offended the people by his opposition to the endeavours that extraordinary young prince was making towards restoring the laws established by Lycurgus, they took occasion from his having married a foreign woman, in violation of an ancient law, to dethrone him, and placed on the throne Cleombrotus, who had espoused Chelonida, the daughter of Leonidas, and was himself of the royal race. Leonidas fled to the temple of Minerva, as an asylum from the rage of the people; thither Chelonida repaired to him, preferring the mournful office of administering consolation to a distressed parent, to a splendid partnership in that royalty of which her father was dispossessed. Instead of sharing the flattering pleasures of regal power, she now became a melancholy suppliant for Leonidas, and he was permitted to retire to Tegea, to which place Agis, who found that his uncle Agesilaus had taken measures to have him slain on his journey, caused him to be safely conducted by a numerous guard. Chelonida accompanied him in his banishment, and by every soothing art endeavoured to render it supportable to him.

Before the division of the lands (one part of Agis's intended reformation in the state)

state) was effected, Agis was sent at the head of a body of forces to the assistance of the Achæans, and during his absence, his uncle Agefilas, who was then one of the Ephori, obstructed the division, and exercised so intolerable a tyranny, that Agis, on his return to Sparta, found the people had recalled Leonidas, and were so exasperated at being disappointed of the agrarian law they had been promised, that Agis and Cleombrotus, suspected by the enraged multitude of an intention to deceive them by pretended patriotism, were reduced to seek their safety in the sanctity of the temples; Agis fled to that of Minerva, Cleombrotus to that of Neptune.

The latter was the first object of Leonidas's resentment; he advanced at the head of a body of soldiers to the temple of Neptune, and gave way to his anger in loading Cleombrotus with the bitterest reproaches; who, confounded by the consciousness that they were merited, and that, in supplanting Leonidas, he had violated the duty of a son, appeared in the utmost dejection, and incapable of urging any thing in his own defence. But Chelonida had accompanied her father, still clad in the mourning habit she had assumed at the time of his deposition, and leading her two little infants. As soon as she saw her husband she

She advanced, and embraced him with the
 utmost tenderness, and then addressing her
 father with all the earnestness and humility
 of a suppliant, "Think not," said she,
 my father, "that all this semblance of
 "woe, this mourning attire, this dejected
 "countenance, this emaciated body, and
 "these streaming eyes, are occasioned by
 "the distress of Cleombrotus: no, this
 "dismal habit was first assumed on your
 "banishment from this city; the calami-
 "ties to which you were exposed, first
 "taught my tears to flow, and reduced
 "me to this melancholy state; but must
 "my miseries never know a period? must
 "I ever be a mourner? or would you have
 "me cloathe myself in gay attire, and
 "wear all the appearances of the joy which
 "your restoration to Sparta deserves, while
 "my husband, the man whom you recom-
 "mended to my virgin love, is threatened
 "with immediate death from the hand of
 "my father? You have indeed the power
 "of punishing his imprudence beyond the
 "most cruel wish your resentment can sug-
 "gest; for though he might with courage
 "and resolution submit to the fatal stroke,
 "yet think how insupportable his affliction
 "will be, when he sees a wife, whom he
 "so tenderly loves, expiring at his feet;
 "for do not believe that I will survive
 "Cleombrotus.

“ Cleombrotus. Could I attempt to asso-
 “ ciate with the Spartan matrons, when
 “ equally despised by the most dear rela-
 “ tions; those united to me by the strong-
 “ est ties of nature and love! I who had
 “ not sufficient influence over my husband
 “ to move him to compassionate my father,
 “ nor power with my father to obtain mer-
 “ cy for my husband!” She then reclined
 her face against the cheek of Cleombrotus,
 and while the tears flowed plentifully from
 her eyes, she cast the most supplicating
 glances round on the audience, to prevail
 with them to enforce her suit to the offend-
 ed king.

All the spectators were touched with the
 tenderest compassion for so excellent a wo-
 man, and even Leonidas's resentment gave
 way to paternal tenderness; he relinquished
 the bloody purpose which had brought him
 thither, and only ordered Cleombrotus to
 depart instantly from Sparta. He impor-
 tunately solicited his daughter to remain
 with him, and as she had shared his distress,
 to partake of his prosperity, and reward
 him for the great proof he had given her
 of his affection, by sparing the life of her
 husband. The generous Chelonida, ever
 more attached to the afflicted than the pros-
 perous friend, was not to be moved; but
 placing one of her children in her husband's
 arms,

arms, and clasping the other in her own, she preferred being the companion of her husband in poverty and banishment, to the ease, the affluence, the splendor, that awaited her in her father's palace. "In Chelonida," said Mrs. Wheatley, "We see woman's true glory. Who that considers her can think that timorousness and false delicacy, which so many of our sex affect, gives that grace to their character which they intend by it? Cowardice and cruelty have ever been deemed companions, this should teach us not to assume the appearance of a vice so ill accompanied. A tender mind, and gentle manners, are indeed the most amiable characteristics of our sex, but they are only weaknesses incident to our feeble frames, if they are not united with fortitude. Where can we find stronger proofs of true tenderness of heart than in Chelonida? She who could forsake not only all that can flatter ambition or vanity, indulge indolence, or gratify the love of pleasure, first to soothe a father's, then a husband's sorrows. She feared neither the fatigues of wearisome journeys, the dangers of solitary retirement, nor the distresses of penury; but exposed herself to them all when she could thereby afford consolation to those who

"had

" had' the best title to her services. Ad-
 " versity is the proper trial of female cou-
 " rage. The suffering virtues are what na-
 " ture seems principally to have designed
 " for our sex, and though they are not the
 " most pleasant, they are certainly the most
 " honourable. That turbulent spirit which
 " has gained so many men the name of
 " hero, is rather madness than true valour ;
 " mere impatience (a sensation somewhat
 " allied to cowardice) may prompt a man
 " to attempt to make fortune his slave,
 " but one who can with true fortitude bear
 " the severest frowns of fortune, shews real
 " courage, and such as our sex may share
 " in; and without it, the tender, gentle na-
 " ture, which should distinguish us, must
 " often fail of producing the effects it was
 " given for. Timorousness arises from self-
 " love, and makes us omit our duties to
 " others from too nice a care of ourselves,
 " when any object of fear presents itself in
 " our road to duty. A woman who ima-
 " gines she gains honour by expelling from
 " her breast, or concealing all the affec-
 " tions of humanity, I think degrades her-
 " self below the human species ; but when
 " I contemplate the conduct of Chelonida,
 " despising danger and distress at the call
 " of duty, I admire and reverence the Spar-
 " tan

"tan matron; and blush to think how
"much we are degenerated."

I thought, my dear mamma, I could in some degree have justified us modern women against Mrs. Wheatley's severe censures, by producing your example. Equal trials to Chelonida's, indeed modern manners will not often afford, but all the self-sacrifices they will admit of, you have performed; a foundation surely to suppose you could have carried the point farther, had you been called to it.—But to proceed to the other exercise, the subject of which was the death of Agis, his mother, and grandmother.

After Cleombrotus was expelled the city of Sparta, Leonidas tried by various arts to prevail with Agis to leave his asylum; but finding them unavailing, he determined to try whether the fidelity of the friends who still appeared attached to the unfortunate prince, was not more easily conquered than his cautious prudence; and succeeded but too well. Three of these false friends frequently accompanied Agis from the temple to the baths, and reconducted him back to the temple.

On one of these occasions, when the streets were empty, for the people, become sensible of their error, were again his friends, they seized, and forcibly dragged him to prison.

prison. Leonidas immediately surrounded it with a great number of foreign soldiers, and sending for the Ephori, and such of the senators, on whose concurrence he could depend, Agis was brought before them, and ordered to justify himself, with respect to his intended innovations in the republic. It would have been to little purpose to have alledged, that this was no competent tribunal, nor did the unfortunate prince attempt it. One of the Ephori gave him to understand, there was one way of clearing himself from the crime laid to his charge, and to afford him an opportunity of doing so, asked him if " he had not been compelled into those measures by Lysander " and Agesilaus ?" But Agis replied, " he " had not acted in consequence of any compulsion ; his admiration of Lycurgus, and " an ardent desire to imitate his conduct, " had been his only motives for attempting " to restore the city to the same state in " which that legislator had left it." The same officer then asking him, if " he repented of that proceeding ?" He answered with firmness, that, " The sight of " death, armed with all its terrors, could " never make him repent so virtuous, so " noble, so glorious an undertaking." On this declaration, his judges condemned him to death, and commanded that he should

Be carried to that part of the prison wherein criminals were usually strangled: but neither the public officers, nor any of the foreign soldiers could be compelled by threats to execute this command; whereupon Demochares, one of his treacherous betrayers, with his own hand dragged the much injured prince to the dungeon.

The people had, by this time, learned the danger of their king; and, fired by the cries and intreaties of Agesistrata and Archidamia, the mother and grandmother of Agis, who beseeched them to procure for the king of Sparta, the just liberty of defending himself, and of being judged by his citizens; they thronged tumultuously about the prison; and by their zeal only hastened the death of the unhappy prince, whom his enemies feared, would be forcibly taken out of their hands. One of the executioners wept at the cruelty of the command he was forced to obey, upon which Agis said to him, "Weep not for me, my friend; although cut off thus in my prime of youth, contrary to justice and the laws; I am far happier than those who have condemned me, and compared with them, am an object worthy of envy." And then with an air of modest firmness, and without shewing the least sign of

of reluctance, offered his neck to the fatal cord.

As Amphares, another of the faithless friends of this noble prince, came from the prison where he had been a witness of this tragic scene, Agefistrata threw herself at his feet. The vile wretch assured her Agis had nothing to fear, and, as a proof of his sincerity, desired leave to conduct her to her son. She begged permission for her aged mother to accompany her to him, whom they equally longed to behold. Amphares's cruelty was too well pleased with this request to be inclined to refuse it, and accordingly led them both into the prison, causing the doors to be immediately shut on them. He consigned Archidamia to the hands of the executioner, and when the fatal deed was perpetrated, he ordered Agefistrata to enter the dungeon; where she beheld her excellent son lying dead on the ground, and at a little distance from him the body of her mother, alike breathless, with the cord still about her neck. She assisted in untying it, and laying her corpse by her murdered son, decently covered it with linen; she then cast herself on the body of Agis, and after tenderly kissing his cold lips, "Oh! my son!" said she, "thy gentle nature, the excess of thy humanity, thy too great circumspection
"and

“and lenity, have undone thee, and been
“fatal to us.”

Amphares, who had retired no farther than the door, that he might be a witness of this most dreadful scene, approached her, and fiercely said, “Since you approved the designs of your son, you shall share his punishment.” Agelistrata rose at those words, and with an impatience that shewed she considered this menace rather as a blessing than a misfortune, ran to the fatal cord, crying, “May this at least be useful to Sparta.” And tying it round her neck, hastened the Executioner to perform his office.

GEOGRAPHICAL CATECHISM

Continuation of GERMANY.

LESSON XIV.

Q. What is to be remarked in the circle of Bavaria?

A. The most considerable places in this circle are the

Achbishopricks of	} {	Chief towns.
Salzburg.		Salzburg.

The

The Electorate of	{	Chief towns.
Bavaria, to which	{	
belongs the Dut-	{	Munich and Landf-
chy, consisting of	{	hut.
Upper and Low-	{	
er Bavaria.	{	
The Upper Palati-	{	Amberg.
nate,	{	
The Bishoprick of	{	Freyfing.
Freyfing.	{	
The County of	{	Wordenfels.
Wordenfels.	{	
The Principalities of	{	Neuburg.
Neuburg.	{	
The bishoprick of	{	The imperial City of
Ratisbon,	{	Ratisbon.
The Landgravate of	{	Leuchtenberg.
Leuchtenberg.	{	
The Bishoprick of	{	Passau.
Passau.	{	

The county of Ternstein, the Provostship of Berchtolsgaden, the county of Haag, the abbey of St. Emmeram in Ratisbon, and the county of Ortenburg.

Q. What does the circle of Franconia contain?

A. This circle is composed of the
 Bishopricks of } Chief towns.
 Bamberg, } Bamberg.
 Wurzburg. } Wurzburg.

The

The Principality of	{	Bayreuth and Cülm-
Culmbach.	}	back.
The Bishoprick of	{	
Eichstett.	}	Eichstett.
The Principality of	{	
Onolzbach.	}	Onolzbach.
The Masterdom of	{	
Mergentheim.	}	
The Bailiwick of	{	
Franconia.	}	
The Counties of	{	
Henneberg and	}	Henneberg.
Schwarzenberg.	}	Schwarzenberg.
Of Hohenlocke.	{	Öehringen.
Of Cassell.	}	Cassell.
Of Wertheim.	{	Wertheim.
Rieneck.	}	Rieneck.
Erbach.	}	Erbach.
The Seigniories of	{	
Limburg.	}	
Seinsheim.	{	
Riechelsberg.	}	Chief towns bearing
Wiesentheid.	{	the same names.
Welzheim.	}	
Hausen.	}	

The imperial cities of Nurnberg, Rothenburg, Windsheim, Schweinfurt, and Weissenburg.

Q. What does the circle of Upper Saxony contain?

A. The

A. The Electorate of Saxony, the Duthy of Saxony.

The Circle of	Chief towns.
Thuringia.	} Dresden and
The Margravate of Meissen.	
The Circle of Meissen.	} Meissen.
The Circles of Erzgebirg.	
Leipzig.	} Freyberg.
Vogtland.	
Neustadt.	} Plauen.

The foundations of Merseburg, and Naumburg.

The electoral Marck of Brandenburg.

The principalities of Weimar, Eisenach, Coburg, Gotha, Altenburg, Querfurt, Cammin, Anhalt-Deffau, Cothen, Zerbst, and Schwarzburg.

The dutchy of Pomerania.

The counties of Mansfeld, Stollberg, Wernigerode, Barby, and Hohnstein.

The lordships of Ruffen, Schonburg, Lorn, and Klettenberg.

Q. What does the circle of Lower Saxony contain?

A. The dutchy of Magdeburg, the territories of the Electorate-house of Brunswick-Luneburg.

Q. What are those territories?

F

A. Those

A. Those that belong to the circle of Lower Saxony are the dutchies of Bremen and Lauenburg. The principalities of Luneburg, Calenburg, and Grubenhagen.

Q. Enumerate the principal places in Lower Saxony.

A. The principalities of Luneburg-Zell, Wolfenbittel, and Halberstadt.

The dutchy of Meclenburg and Gustro.

The dutchy of Holstein, with the lordship of Pinneberg, and the town of Altona.

The diocefe of Hildesheim. The dutchy of Saxe-Lauenberg. The archbifhoprick of Lubeck. The principalities of Schwerin, Ratzeburg, and Blankenburg. The county of Ranzau. The imperial cities of Lubeck, Gofzlar, Muhlhaufen, Hamburg, and Bremin.

Q. What does the dutchy of Silefia contain?

A. It is divided into Upper and Lower Silefia, and comprehends the principalities of Breslau, Brieg, Schweidnitz, Jauer, Lignitz, Wolau, Glogau, Neyfze, Oels, Sagan, Munfterberg, Trachenberg, Carolith, Oppeln, and Ratibor.

The circle of Leobfchutz.

The principality of Troppau.

The county of Glatz, with many others lefs remarkable.

Q. Are

Q. Are the sovereigns of all the principalities you have mentioned invested with supreme power?

A. They are all: and there is in number above three hundred of them, though not all by me enumerated, absolute in their own dominions; but as a congregated body subject to the emperor, though his power over them is very limited.

Q. Is not the emperor an elected sovereign?

A. Nominally he is: for the form of an election is still kept up, but the imperial crown has in fact been hereditary in the family of the dukes of Austria, ever since Frederic the third.

Q. How many electors are there?

A. Nine: namely, the archbishops of Mentz, Treves, and Cologne, the king of Bohemia, the dukes of Bavaria, and Saxony, the electors of Brandenburg, and Hanover, and the prince Palatine of the Rhine.

Q. Of what temperature is the air in Germany?

A. As the country is of very great extent, the climate and soil vary much, according to the different parts of it; the northern provinces are in general very cold, and the land but moderately fertile; in the south-

ern circles, the air is fine and the earth extremely fruitful.

Q. What character do the people bear?

A. They are said to be both in mind and body strong and heavy. History furnishes us with various proofs that they were anciently a hardy warlike people; and Germany was so populous, that in the fifth century they over ran the greatest part of Europe, and the people who now possess most of the European states are descended from those colonies of the Germans. What they want in quickness of genius has been more than compensated by industry, which has enabled them to make some great discoveries; that of gun-powder in particular, though they are said to have hit upon it accidentally in a chymical process; the operator was Bartholdus Swart, a Jesuit. Their intellects are, perhaps, rendered more heavy by immoderate eating and drinking, to which they are much addicted.

Q. What are the Hans towns?

A. A number of cities, which, towards the end of the thirteenth century, united by a league in mutual defence of their liberties; of these Lubec, Cologne, and Dantzic are the chief, but they have been long in a declining state.

Q. What

Q. What religion is established in Germany?

A. The Emperor must be a Roman Catholic, but that faith and the Protestant persuasion are professed by nearly equal numbers in the empire. The reformation was first begun in Germany, about the year 1517, by Martin Luther.

GEOGRAPHICAL CATECHISM

LESSON XV.

OF BOHEMIA.

Q. Where does Bohemia lie?

A. In the middle of Germany, between 48 deg. 30 m. and 51. deg. of north latitude, and the 30 deg. and 36 deg. east longitude, and is bounded on the north by Misnia, Lusatia, and Silesia; on the west by Erzgebirge, Vogtland, Culmbach, and the Upper Palatinate; on the south by Bavaria and Austria; and on the east by Moravia, Silesia, and the county of Glatz.

Q. How is it divided?

A. It consists of Prague, the capital town, with its divisions, and twelve circles.

Q. Which are the circles?

F 3

A. The

A. The circles of		Chief towns.
Bunzlau.		Jung Bunzlau.
Koningratz.		Jaromirz.
Chrudim..		Chrudim.
Tschaslau.		Czasslaw.
Kaurzim.		Kaurzim.
Bechin.	>>	Budweis.
Prachin.		Pisek.
Pilsen.		Pilsen.
Saaz.		Saaz.
Leutmeritz.		Leutmeritz.
Bakownitz.		Bakownitz.
Beraunpodbrad.	J	Beraun.

OF HUNGARY.

Q. What is Hungary?

A. It is a kingdom situated between the forty fifth and forty ninth degrees of north latitude, and 32 and 44 deg. of east longitude. It is bounded in its limited sense, to the north by Poland, from which it is separated by the Carpathian Mountains; on the east by Transylvania, and Walachia; on the south by Servia and the River Drave, which separates it from Sclavonia; and on the west by Moravia, Austria, and Stiria, in its more extensive sense Hungary comprehends Sclavonia, Dalmatia, Bosnia, Servia, and Transylvania; and even Moldavia and Walachia are included in it.

Q. How

Q. How is Hungary divided ?

A. Into Upper and Lower Hungary.

Q. What does the former contain ?

A. Upper Hungary, which lies to the east, consists of two circles, and comprehends many cities, the most considerable of which are, Tokay, Temes-var, Szeged, and Great Varadein.

Q. What does the Lower Hungary contain ?

A. The principal towns therein are, Presburg, the capital of Hungary, lying on the Danube, Gran, Buda, formerly the metropolis, and Peter-Wardein, Scantz, and others less considerable.

Q. Have these kingdoms their respective sovereigns ?

A. They are now both subject to the House of Austria, and ruled with a rod of iron.

Though want of leisure shortens my letter, it cannot damp the constant sense I have of my dear mamma's goodness, nor prevent my feeling every moment, with how much sincerity and tenderness I am ever her most

Dutiful and affectionate daughter,

MARIA MILTON.

LETTER XXXVII.

My dear Mamma,

THOUGH if envy could ever be justified, I might be pardonable in being a little envious of my cousin Nancy, yet I rejoice she has made you so long a visit, as she must have enlivened your solitude; and since that happy lot is denied me, I am very glad another has, for a little time at least, performed that part which I should with so much pleasure pass my life in acting; and I trust I shall not always be excluded from the society my heart longs after. But you say this subject makes you melancholy; the dejection of my own spirits whenever my thoughts dwell on it, shews me how it may naturally affect the dearest and best of mothers, therefore no more of it.

I had scarcely sealed my last letter to you, when I was called down to make my compliments to a new scholar, one that may be so termed in a different sense from the rest of us. We are called scholars, because we come to learn, she may be allowed the name from having learned. You will, perhaps,

perhaps, ask, why then does she come to school?—Not to acquire more learning, but to be taught the true use and value of it. Miss Wilkins, for that is her name, is daughter to a gentleman, who, by having a considerable fortune in St. Christopher's, is frequently obliged to go thither, and his wife esteeming his society a full compensation for the dangers of the sea, and change of climate, always accompanies him. They were obliged to undertake one of these necessary voyages when our new boarder was about four years old. Mrs. Wilkins's father and mother, too fond of the child to endure the thought of her being exposed to dangers, desired she might be left with them, and were with pleasure indulged in their request.

When Mr. and Mrs. Wilkins returned into England, the little girl was become so much the idol of her grandfather and grandmother, that they could not be brought to part with her, and as her parents had more children, they insisted that it would be cruel to deny their age its great consolation, by robbing them of their little prattler. They were again complied with, and were happy in the concession. Miss Wilkins was at first the object of their tenderness, and in a little time became also the object of their vanity. In person she

was in no respect remarkable, but sufficiently pleasing to delight her fond parents, and it is still agreeable; but they soon discovered, or thought they discovered, an uncommon genius in her. Whatever they attempted to teach her she acquired with a facility that rendered it pleasant to her, and her memory was both quick and retentive. Her talents were diligently cultivated. Her grandfather instructed her, and her grandmother wondered. Could she do less than wonder at a girl, who, at eight years old, knew more than she did at almost eighty? She was a very honest, good, but illiterate woman. Before Miss Wilkins was ten years old, she was considered as a prodigy. Her grandfather examined her in every company, that due honour might be paid to her various excellencies; and as she had really made uncommon progress, she received much praise from sincerity, and still more from complaisance to her fond parents. It is no wonder then that the poor girl's vanity grew still faster than her knowledge, or that she endeavoured to introduce some scraps of that learning into all her conversation, which she saw charmed the good old people.

A year ago her grandmother died, and the old gentleman survived her only about eight months. Miss Wilkins then returned

ed to her father's ; where she was received with the greatest tenderness, to prevent her feeling the loss of an indulgence to which she had been so long accustomed ; but they were severely mortified at finding her a complete coxcomb. Her pedantic affectation became a subject of ridicule to all her new acquaintance ; and a turn of conversation far out of the common road, would frequently force a smile even from the polite, which, though received as a token of approbation by the young lady, was severely felt by her father and mother. They gently intimated the error she had fallen into, but found whatever they said on the subject was received as a proof of want of affection for her ; and either offended or grieved her, but was not likely to correct her intolerable conceit.

While Mr. and Mrs. Wilkins were under this mortification, their affairs obliged them to determine on re-visiting St Christopher's. Miss had imbibed great fears of the sea, from the terrors with which her grandfather and his wife had always spoken of it ; the thought of being exposed to so dreadful an element distressed her so much, that her parents considered it as a favourable opportunity for effecting what they wished, but could not have otherwise ventured to propose, and expressing a desire

to spare her a voyage which appeared so dreadful to her, said they knew not where to leave her, except she would like to pass the time of their absence with Mrs. Wheatley.

Mrs. Wheatly was an entire stranger to Miss Wilkins, but whatever was an asylum from the sea appeared eligible to her, and that the old lady kept a school was no disagreeable circumstance to her, as she imagined she would know how to esteem properly that learning for which her parents and her sisters seemed to have no taste; nor did she doubt but she should be an object of admiration both to her and her scholars.

Mrs. Wilkins, who has for many years been the intimate friend of this family, requested Mrs. Wheatley, as the greatest favour she could confer on her, to receive her daughter, not as a scholar, but a companion, and to use her best endeavours to cure her of her pedantry. Though the task was not an agreeable one, Mrs. Wheatley could not resist the desire of her friends, who hoped she might be able to effect what they dared not attempt, lest they should entirely estrange from them the mind of their newly restored daughter; whom, for her natural endowments, they tenderly love, though not blind to her acquired follies.

Miss

Miss Wilkins soon gave us full proof that the account we had received of her pedantry and affectation had not been exaggerated. She complained of fatigue, the vehicle being uneasy, and the roads so stony, that with the violent concussions she suffered she was covered with contusions. The maid brought in a band-box, and Miss Wilkins bade her put it in the angle of the room; the poor girl started, not knowing where that was, till Mrs. Wheatley said, "Miss Wilkins means the corner of the room, Betty." Miss gave a smile of ineffable contempt at poor Betty's ignorance. She expressed no small satisfaction at the sight of tea and bread and butter, declaring she was ready to expire with inanition, having taken no refecton since her breakfast, for she had been afraid the least procrastination might have reduced her to finish her journey by the dim lustre of the poor little twinkling luminaries. Mrs. Wheatley really blushed for her, and, with visible impatience in her countenance, said, Indeed the road you came is too bad to travel agreeably by that light, and there is no moon now. But Miss Wilkins's lofty stile, was not so easily depressed, she continued in the same strain, and was so ingenious, that I really think she did not give us above two words in a sentence, that consisted

consisted of less than four syllables, the whole night; except such as by being technical terms, compensated for their brevity. Though I believe she knows the meaning of the words she utters, yet she would rather chuse an improper one than be guilty of a monosyllable, which she considers as an heinous offence against good language.

Nor will hard words alone content her, she is continually making allusions designed to shew her learning. She met four or five of us walking arm in arm this morning, and cried out an impenetrable phalanx I protest. Our School-room she has dignified with the name of the attic school, the house she calls the temple of the muses, a shady walk in the garden she terms the academic grove, and declares the whole country around is so pleasant, that it will make her a peripatetic philosopher. Seeing some of our youngest ladies eagerly engaged in a very actice play, she observed that their strength was almost adequate to the gymnastic exercises. But to repeat more instances of her pedantry, would weary you, if the specimens I have already given, have not already had that effect; add to this, that her conversation is also interlarded with French, Italian, or Latin words, to so great a degree, that it would be difficult to determine, which she design-

ed to have considered as her principal language, it is a kind of lingua franca, so compounded of different tongues, that it is no language at all; and persons of strong imagination might, while she is talking, fancy themselves at the building of Babel in the very instant of the grand confusion.

As new converts are most zealous, so Miss Le Maine, having but just begun to read any thing that deserves to be read, has so passionate an admiration for whatever may be called learning, that she gazes at Miss Wilkins in her highest frenzy of pedantry with profound veneration, and even envies her amazing erudition; she treasures up every hard word, and over-strained allusion in her memory, and impatiently longs for the power of being equally absurd; but this blind admiration will, by our governesses, be turned to good account, and they will know how to damp the vain desire of exhibiting knowledge, without extinguishing the ardour to acquire it. I am sensible that when I speak of the little we very young people can learn, I commit a great impropriety in using the words, knowledge or learning, I might as justly call a middle sized person a giant, but it is for want of terms to express something that is a degree above total ignorance, and
I trust,

"I trust, my dear mamma, will not charge on me for an error in judgment, what, in fact, proceeds only from a defect in language.

Mrs. Wheatley has begun gently to intimate to Miss Wilkins, that her conversation is a little pedantic; but, without any good effect, she replies, that discourse must take its tincture from our ideas, and that if they are not of the vulgar and common sort, our phrases will be adapted to them: a person of learning cannot talk like the illiterate; adding, that she is apt to believe few people would wish they should; and she knows no use of uncommon talents if such people are to reduce themselves to the level of low and ignorant minds. But I gave you reason to believe, I would say no more of this female pedant, yet am I still on the subject; the novelty of the character in this place has too much engrossed my thoughts, which may be far better employed in the expectation of Miss Lenthall, who has promised to be here to-morrow morning, and to pass a little time with us; this indeed will be my grand Jubilee; and were it not for the longing desire I continually feel for my dearest mamma's company, my heart would not have a wish ungratified. What can be wanting to one who enjoys the comforts of affluence, the tranquil pleasures

tures of a quiet and rational life, and above all, the society of respectable, agreeable, and affectionate friends? But I must not indulge myself in the contemplation of the quiet blessings that fall to my happy lot, having so far different an employment for my pen, in relating the tumultuary, and bloody events, contained in the part of our historical catechism, now to be transcribed.

HISTORICAL CATECHISM.

LESSON LXI.

Q. Was Cleomenes worthy of so early an exaltation?

A. By conversing with Agiatus, his wife, he not only had learned to revere the memory of Agis, but had even imbibed the sentiments of that most excellent prince; like him brought up in luxurious effeminacy; like him his soul was too noble to be contaminated by the soft infection of indolence and vice. Unawed by the unhappy fate of Agis, he was fired with emulation, and regardless of the consequence, was impatient to execute the plan which had proved so fatal to his predecessor in the great design.

Q. Did he proceed by the same steps?

A. No::

A. No: believing that a war might facilitate his purpose, he seized the opportunity given him by the Achæans, who had attacked the Arcadians, the allies of Sparta, because they had refused to enter into the Achæan league.

Q. With what success did Cleomenes carry on this war?

A. He twice defeated the Achæans: which gave such lustre to his character, that he thought he might then venture to attempt the execution of his noble purpose. He imparted his design to his friends, and, finding them favourably disposed, he ordered his return in such a manner, as to enter Sparta when the Ephori were at supper, and, on his appearing in the city, some persons, appointed for that purpose, killed four of the five Ephori. He the next day banished fourscore citizens, by whose opposition he feared his intention might be frustrated, and then consigned over his whole estate as the common property; his friends first, and then the rest of the citizens followed his example; the lands were divided, and even those whom he had sent into banishment had their equal share. He also restored the ancient method of education, the exercises, and public meals; and then associated his brother
Euclidas

Euclidas on the throne, lest the people might be disgusted by single monarchy.

Q. In what year did Cleomenes re-establish the ancient government of Sparta?

A. In the year 225 before Christ.

Q. Did not the cares and dangers attending such a revolution prevent his continuing the war with the Achæans?

A. Only for a short time: his affability of manners and gentleness of mind, together with his approved generosity and magnanimity, had so well secured to him the affections of his citizens, that he soon ventured to renew the war, wherein he defeated their armies, took many of their cities, and, by a series of successes, reduced them into great extremity. He then offered peace and a restoration of all the places he had taken, on condition they would appoint him general of the Achæan league.

Q. Did they not readily consent to terms which not only would deliver them from all the bad consequences of an unsuccessful war, but give them the advantage of gaining so great a general, who, of all the men of his time, was most capable of rendering their arms victorious, and whose generosity and love of freedom left them no room to fear any encroachment on their liberties?

A. Such

A. Such, one would imagine, must have been the consequence of his offer; but on the contrary, the Achæans not only rejected it, as most historians say, at the instigation of Aratus, who was jealous of the glory of a youthful hero, by whom his had so much suffered, but they invited Antigonus king of Mecedonia, the enemy whom they had hitherto most feared, and most strenuously opposed, to undertake their defence. A measure which will ever disgrace Aratus, whether it proceeded from envy, or rather from a failure in judgment and wisdom, for which he had been so justly distinguished; for it is unpleasant, and, in my opinion, rash, to charge lightly so great, so noble a spirit with envy; for my part, I am more inclined to believe, that he feared the ambition of so young a hero; and, believing that so great an increase of power might, as too frequently happens, extinguish his early love for liberty, thought the Spartan the most dangerous enemy.

Q. Was their choice of Antigonus attended with success?

A. For more than two years the good fortune of Cleomenes continued; and while the Achæans perceived they had chosen themselves a master, they experienced that they had not got a protector; but at length he defeated Cleomenes in a battle: a victory

tory he chiefly owed to the sagacity and valour of Philopæmen of Megalopolis, who was at that time extremely young.

Q. What followed this victory?

A. Cleomenes, sensible that Sparta had not a sufficient strength left to repel the conqueror, advised, that he should be amicably received into the city, while he set sail for Egypt, to solicit succours from Ptolomy, who had before lent him some assistance, though not till after he had received the mother and infant son of that prince as hostages. His wife, Agiatis, had died during the war.

Q. What treatment did the Spartans receive from Antigonus?

A. He entered the city rather as a friend than a conqueror; but took the surest method of preventing the Spartans from ever being again either a formidable enemy, or a considerable state, by abolishing the laws of Lycurgus, so newly re-established; and with them fell the glory of Sparta. In three days after Antigonus entered the city, he was obliged to leave it in order to hasten into Macedonia, where a war had broken out.

Q. In what year did Antigonus obtain this victory over Cleomenes?

A. In the year 222 before Christ.

Q. Who reigned then in Syria?

A. Seleucus

A. Seleucus Ceraunus: who having succeeded his father Seleucus Callinicus, was that year poisoned in Parthia, whither he had led an army, but Achæus his cousin, who had, during his reign, managed his affairs, Seleucus being from imbecillity of mind incapable of governing a kingdom, put the conspirators to death, and the crown being offered to him, he refused it, and placed Antiochus, afterwards surnamed the great, younger son to Callinicus on the throne, though at that time but fifteen years of age.

Q. Did Achæus always preserve the same fidelity?

A. No: some years after, finding himself accused of an intention to usurp the crown he had refused, he actually declared himself king, and kept possession of Asia Minor, of which, Antiochus, on ascending the throne, had made him governor. He defended himself against the king for above a year in the city of Sardis, but being then betrayed into the king's hands, he was beheaded.

H I S-

HISTORICAL CATECHISM.

LESSON LXII.

Q. Was a war with Achæus the only one Antiochus had at that time on his hands?

A. No: he was engaged in a war likewise with the king of Egypt, in order to recover Cœlofryia, which had for some time been in the hands of the Egyptians.

Q. Who was then king of Egypt?

A. Ptolomy Evergetes dying in the year before Christ, 220, his son Ptolomy Philopater; who was suspected of having poisoned his father, ascended the throne; and whether guilty or not of that crime, he had little right to complain of the imputation, having caused Berenice his mother, and Magus his only brother to be publicly put to death; and indeed his whole reign was nothing but a series of crimes and debaucheries.

Q. Was Cleomenes at that time in Egypt?

A. He was: Ptolomy Evergetes had treated him with great generosity, allotting him a very considerable revenue, conversing with him with all the confidence of friendship,

friendship, and promising to assist him both with men and money, in order to reinstate him in his kingdom, but died before he fulfilled that engagement.

Q. Was Philopater equally generous to him?

A. No: his fate was far different under Ptolomy Philopater. When Cleomenes heard of the death of Antigonus, that he was succeeded by Philip, the son of Demetrius, to whom Antigonus had originally been constituted guardian, a youth of fifteen years old, and that the Spartans in concert with the Ætolians were engaged in a war with the Achæans and Macedonians, he applied to Ptolomy for a body of troops to enable him to give timely aid to his country; which that prince not only refused, but put him under close confinement, a treatment so afflicting to Cleomenes, that he and his friends, by a joint agreement, slew each other. And, after his decease, Ptolomy caused his mother and children to be put to death.

Q. What success had Antiochus in his war with Ptolomy?

A. For some time fortune seemed to favour him, but at length he was vanquished in a battle by the Egyptians, and in a treaty of peace he ceded Cœlosyria and Palestine to Ptolomy. After this it was that
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he turned his arms against Achæus with better success.

Q. What was the event of the war in Greece?

A. Philip, though a youth, submitting himself in a great degree to the councils and directions of Aratus, to whose care and tuition Antigonus had very judiciously, for some time, committed him during his life, he carried on the war with very great reputation, and appeared in many enterprises to act with all the conduct and magnanimity of an experienced general; and while he continued to be influenced by so wise a director, his private actions were as just and honourable, as his martial enterprises were glorious.

Q. Was Aratus the only counsellor of his unexperienced youth?

A. No: Apelles, who had been his governor before he came to the throne, and was appointed his prime minister by Antigonus, had great influence over him; but though he hated Aratus, and endeavoured by every means to estrange the king from a man of principles so very different from his own, yet he could never dissolve the union between them, though he caused some little interruptions in it. Apelles was no less hated for his vices, than Aratus was respected for his virtues; but a long
G knowledge

knowledge of his faults was insufficient to induce the king to disgrace him, till he discovered that he was carrying on treasonable practices, and then he put him to death. Success seemed every where to attend the arms of Philip, which increasing his ambition, he turned his thoughts towards the conquest of Italy; and to be at liberty to pursue his views, he made peace with the Ætolians, on condition that each state should retain the places and countries it had subdued.

Q. What measures did Philip take in the prosecution of his new enterprize?

A. Hannibal had at that time carried the Carthaginian arms into Italy, and thrice defeated the Romans in battle. Philip considered, therefore, an alliance with him as very desirable, and sent ambassadors to him for that purpose; but they falling into the hands of the Romans, pretended it was to them they were sent to negotiate a treaty; a circumstance very pleasing to that people at a time when they were distressed; and accordingly, the General gave the ambassadors a guard to conduct them safely to Rome; but they found opportunity on the road to make their escape from their conductors, and fled to Hannibal, with whom they completed their intended alliance.

Q. Did

Q. Did Philip, in consequence of the treaty, lead an army into Italy?

A. He did the following year: but his camp being unexpectedly attacked by the Romans, he received a considerable defeat; the fleet which had conveyed his army was burnt, and he was obliged to return to Macedonia by land, with the melancholy remains of his shattered forces.

Q. Was Aratus with him in this expedition?

A. No: he had for some time withdrawn himself in great measure from Philip's court, having observed a fatal change in the dispositions of that prince, who seduced by unworthy favourites, and corrupted by flattery, had fallen into grievous vices, and disgraceful excesses, which too plainly prognosticated, that the glory he had acquired in his juvenile years, would be obscured by the vices and tyranny of his more mature age.

Q. Did Philip retain to the last any part of the respect and affection he had so long borne Aratus?

A. So far from it, that Aratus having blamed him for an unjust attack he made on the Messenians after his return into Macedonia, Philip caused that excellent man to be poisoned.

Q. Was the perpetration of this black treachery all Philip's employment at that time?

A. No: He made a successful expedition against the Illyrians; but this does not seem to have turned out much to his advantage, as it probably had no small share in driving them into an alliance with the Romans.

Q. Did Philip again try his fortune in Italy?

No: the Romans rather chose to make Greece the seat of war, and having gained over to their interest the Ætolians, Attalus king of Pergamus, Machinadas, who had forcibly seized the throne of Sparta, and the kings of Thrace and Illyria, they sent a small army into Greece to the assistance of these their allies; but their joint troops were twice defeated by Philip, who afterwards repaired to Argos to be present at the solemnization of the Nemæan games; where, receiving information that the Romans were laying waste the country between Sicyon and Corinth, he immediately marched against them, who being incumbered by the spoil they had taken, were put to flight: Philip pursued them to their ships, and then returned to Argos, where the games were still celebrating.

Q. Was

Q. Was his next engagement with the enemy equally successful?

A. He received a small check near the city of Elis, in a battle where his person was exposed to the most eminent danger; and his character received more advantage from the greatness of his courage, than detriment from his being obliged to retire from the field of battle. He could not then repair the mortification he had suffered, being obliged to march immediately into Macedonia to defend it against an invasion of the Dardanians.

Q. Was any thing considerable performed by the Achæans after his departure?

A. Under the conduct of Philopæmen they defeated the Ætolians; and now the war was chiefly carried on by the Grecians, the Romans having too much employment for their forces in Italy, to send much assistance to their Grecian allies.

Q. As we have never touched on the history of the Romans, nor even mentioned their names, where it was possible to avoid it, I shall ask you no questions concerning them, whose history deserves a particular relation; but what passed in Greece after the Romans abandoned it?

A. Philopæmen at the head of the Achæans gained a complete victory over the Spartans, near Mantinea, and killed Ma-

chinadas, the tyrant of Sparta, with his own hand. Nothing considerable happened in Greece after this battle; and within two years after a general peace was concluded between the Achæans, the Romans, and the allies on both sides.

Q. When was this peace made?

A. About 206 years before the christian æra.

I cannot omit sending you this day's exercise, as Cleomenes, who is no small favourite of mine, was the subject.

When Cleomenes, king of Sparta, first applied to Ptolomy for succours against Antigonus, that prince agreed to grant his request on condition he would send his mother and infant son into Egypt, to be detained as hostages; an article so odious to that excellent young king, that it was not till after many repeated efforts to discover it to his mother Cratesiclea, that he could bring himself to acquaint her with it. "And is this," said she with a smile, "the mighty secret which I have so long seen you want courage to disclose? Why did you not immediately cause me to be sent, without a moment's delay, to any part of the world where I may be useful to Sparta, rather than suffer me to be consumed by old age, in a state of languor and inactivity." Soon after she arrived

arrived in Egypt, she learnt that peace was negotiating between Ptolomy and Antigonus, and that the Spartans were solicited to enter into the Achæan league, but that Cleomenes was prevented from engaging in so useful an alliance, by the fears he entertained of the treatment his mother and son might receive from the Egyptian king, if he ventured to exasperate him. On this intelligence, she sent to her son a strong exhortation, to do whatever might prove beneficial and glorious to Sparta, without concerning himself for the fate of two persons so useless to their country, as an ancient woman, and an helpless infant.

But the greatness of Cratesiclea's courage and resolution, could not prevail with Cleomenes to hazard the lives of persons so dear to him, and whom nature's dictates told him, he ought to protect, not destroy; he therefore continued to resist his enemies till his forces were consumed, and the city of Sparta no longer able to defend itself against the conquering army. He then fled to Egypt, in hopes, by his personal solicitation, to obtain fresh succours of Ptolomy. At first, he was no welcome guest at that court; but his amiable qualities, his noble mind, and the charms of his conversation, soon recommended him to that prince's favour, who treated him

with respect and affection, promised to furnish him with the aid he solicited, and in the mean time assigned him a considerable pension; such as enabled Cleomenes, who continued to live in his own particular manner, with the utmost frugality, to supply the necessities of all those Grecians, who, like himself, had fled from their ruined country to Egypt.

Unfortunately for Cleomenes, Ptolomy Evergetes died before he had fulfilled his promises to that unhappy prince, and was succeeded on the throne by his son Ptolomy, surnamed ironically, Philopater, a man of a far different disposition. He at first, however, treated Cleomenes with distinction, and even admitted him into his confidence; but meeting from him with a strong opposition to his design of putting to death his brother Magas, which, notwithstanding his dissuasion, he executed; he perceived Cleomenes would prove a counsellor little suited to his inclinations; and fearing either to see him replaced on the Spartan throne, or at liberty in Egypt, he not only refused to suffer him and his family to depart the kingdom, which Cleomenes had importunately solicited on the death of Antigonos, but confined him in a strong castle, though still continuing his stipend,

stipend, and allowing his friends to visit him.

Cleomenes, of a nature that could but ill brook such confinement, formed a desperate enterprize to end his imprisonment, either by liberty or death. His friends found means to get him out of the prison, and then in a body they ran into the streets with their swords drawn, exhorting the people to shake off the yoke of so cruel and despicable a tyrant, and regain their liberty; but fear, or astonishment, kept the people quiet, not one joined this desperate party. When deprived of all hopes of success, to avoid ignominious punishment, they ran on each others swords.

Ptolomy caused the body of Cleomenes to be hanged on a cross, and commanded that his mother, his children, and all the women that attended them, should be put to death.

Cratificlea, though superior to the fear of death for herself, was vulnerable through her helpless grand children, and requested no other favour of the tyrant than to suffer her to be first executed, but even this small boon was denied her; the children were slain in her presence; after which she impatiently solicited the hand of the executioner, without uttering any other

complaint than, " Ah! my children! to
 " what a place did you fly for refuge!"

After the relation of so dreadful a catastrophe, and that of one whom I have declared so great a favourite of mine, you will not imagine my mind can be quite at liberty to trifle on through another page, were I not sensible, that it would be very unreasonable to add any thing more to this letter, than that I am, my dearest mamma,

Your most affectionate

And dutiful daughter,

MARIA MILTON.

L E T T E R XXXVIII.

EVEN the pleasure I receive from Miss Lenthall's conversation, cannot lessen the satisfaction I take in writing to my dear mamma; could any thing make me forego it I must be very ungrateful, when you so frequently, and especially with the kindest assurances by the last post, tell me, that my letters are still acceptable to you. How strong a proof is this of the affection which constitutes the happiness of my life! for to any other they would appear intollerably tedious, and yet my vanity have therein no cause to be mortified, for I have no subjects

subjects to write upon that can afford amusement. The occurrences in a school cannot be expected to entertain; of all fashionable topics, we are totally ignorant; we have as little chance to hear the news of the town, or the scandal most current, as that far different sound, the music of the spheres; for we are in a kind of middle state, almost as far from the vices and follies of gay life, as from the sublime condition of angels. News-papers, indeed we regularly peruse, but more to gain a little knowledge of what passes between kingdom and kingdom, as a sort of modern history, than in regard to private details, which we are too little conversant in the world to understand; a great personage—a certain peer—a lady of quality—a considerable commoner, at the west end of the town—with many such expressions are impenetrable mysteries, enigmas not to be resolved by us, and conscious of our incapacity we do not attempt the arduous task. But even had we more penetration, when any thing appears in print it can no longer be inserted in a letter as news, therefore I could not from thence obtain any topics for writing. Thus must I, even without deficiency in myself, be disqualified for an amusing correspondent; but you kindly do not require amusement, and if

written by your much favoured daughter, are contented with a dull relation of the trifling incidents that occur in the school, which, from being the place of her abode, becomes a scene of importance to your maternal love. Such then may still be my subjects, and without fear of disgusting you I will continue them.

When Miss Lenthall's coach drove up to the door, Mrs. Wheatly, turning to her new guest, said, "Now Miss Wilkins you shall see a young lady, who, though her ideas are not *vulgar*, though she has read at least as much as you have, can speak a language intelligible to the unlearned, yet sufficiently elegant to please a *real* scholar; not one hard word, nor pedantic expression will fall from her lips." Miss Wilkins answered only with a scornful smile, and returned Miss Lenthall's curtesy with a supercilious air. She mixed little in the conversation that evening, but said, as she went to bed, "So! that is the model Mrs. Wheatley thinks one should form one self after; to read and to remember are different things." An air of self-satisfaction in her countenance, shewed her convinced of her own superiority; and she was determined, that the next day should render it equally obvious to every one else.

As

As soon as the business of the school was sufficiently over, to allow of regular discourse, she engaged Miss Lenthall in conversation; and to begin her expected triumph launched into history. Miss Lenthall had no objection to the subject, but in a little time perceived, by Miss Wilkins's confusion, that she had got beyond her depth, and dropped the subject. Miss Wilkins supposing she had unluckily engaged with her rival in literature, (for in that light she beheld her) on her most advantageous ground, made a transition to geography; here again she was baffled; but in hopes assurance and positiveness would get the better of knowledge, she insisted on her errors, and charged her opponent with mistakes. Miss Lenthall politely avoided all contention, and would have suffered her to enjoy a triumph she did not think worth the trouble of disputing; but Mrs. Wheatley, believing the mortification might be useful, called for the globe and maps, and obliged Miss Wilkins to receive unwelcome conviction.

Still self-conceit supported her under this second disappointment; and confident of her abilities, she turned the conversation to every subject on which she thought she could make a display of superior knowledge; till equally unsuccessful in all, she
condemned

condemned herself to a mortified silence, and was so visibly disconcerted, that Mrs. Wheatley taking her hand, with an affectionate smile, said, "Why, Miss Wilkins, do you assume that serious air? Surely, my dear, you are not vexed to find Miss Lenthall is advanced farther than yourself in the studies you have commenced? For a person of only sixteen years of age, you have made uncommon progress. It should give you pleasure to find, that you have still so much farther to go in pursuits that have already yielded you great entertainment. Miss Lenthall has had more time to follow them; she is some years older than you; but were it otherwise, were she as much younger, it would be no just cause of mortification. I cannot see that any honour is to be acquired by having read more than others; the advantages that are to be reaped from study, can only make it worthy our ambition. If our minds are not improved thereby, to any of the useful purposes of life, the time so spent has been thrown away, and might in almost any other manner have been better employed."

"Confessedly, madam," interrupted Miss Wilkins, "if people are deficient in memory, reading is to them of no utility."

"I be-

" I believe, my dear," replied Mrs.
 " Wheatley, " we are apt to fall into an
 " error in regard to that faculty. Some
 " will store up facts exact and naked, as
 " they hear or read them; important, or
 " trivial, all are alike put into that store-
 " house; others separate the wheat from
 " the chaff, discard trifling incidents, and
 " retain only such as are considerable. The
 " first of these, are generally said to have
 " the best memories; but I am inclined
 " to think, the only difference is this, in
 " the first the memory seems to act without
 " a guide; like a convulsed hand it grasps
 " every thing; the other is under the di-
 " rection of judgment, and selecting only
 " what deserves to be remembered, is never
 " incumbered by a superfluous load of
 " lumber, therefore, can apply what it has
 " collected on every requisite occasion with-
 " out confusion. I have known a person
 " who could quote chapter and verse for
 " almost every thing he had read through
 " a long list of folios; but it lay in his
 " brain as it did in the book, without sug-
 " gesting any new thought to him, or lead-
 " ing him to extend one idea, enlarge an
 " argument, or draw a consequence; while
 " another, immediately received into his
 " mind, the purport of what he had read,
 " and reasoned upon it till it became so

" much his own, that he would have
 " found it difficult to discover whether
 " the foundation was laid by another, or
 " first had its being in his own mind,
 " This, in my opinion, is the sort of me-
 " mory which renders reading most useful;
 " the other only forms a kind of patch-
 " work understanding, made up of scraps;
 " a kind of Harlequin's coat, but even
 " with less regularity; for the motley is
 " composed of here a fragment of history,
 " there a shred of poetry, then a remnant
 " of philosophy, next a scrap of divinity,
 " and so on till the whole makes a fit
 " garb for a pedant, but never the proper
 " dress of a man of learning."

" But," said Miss Wilkins, " by ex-
 " cluding scraps, as you call them, you
 " make learning of no advantage in con-
 " versation."

" Pardon me, my dear," answered Mrs.
 " Wheatley, " I consider learning to the
 " mind what food is to the body, it is its
 " nourishment; I would therefore have it
 " so properly digested, that it should en-
 " lighten reason, strengthen the judgment,
 " direct the passions, and rectify the heart.
 " It should enlarge our stock of ideas, and
 " correct our errors. From the study of
 " history we should learn to know man-
 " kind; by their actions we discover their
 " nature;

“ nature ; by observing how they vary in
 “ different ages and different countries, we
 “ may perceive how far the several modes
 “ of faith, or contrary prejudices affect
 “ their actions. By the study of morality
 “ we learn our duties, the reciprocal rela-
 “ tion we stand in to each other, and what
 “ that relation requires from us. Natural
 “ philosophy, will teach us to raise our
 “ thoughts to the great Creator of all the
 “ wonders we behold ; we see his wisdom
 “ in the most minute, the most insignifi-
 “ cant of his works ; and the understand-
 “ ing must be sordid, and the heart very
 “ cold, of him who does not admire, re-
 “ verence, and love so wise, so powerful,
 “ and so merciful a Being.—But I shall
 “ be too tedious if I thus attempt to shew
 “ the uses of every science.—Religion,
 “ you observe, I omit, because it is not ge-
 “ nerally included under the appellation
 “ of learning ; nor, indeed, should it be so,
 “ though it teaches us what is of far more
 “ use than all the rest put together ; but
 “ the word learning, generally implies
 “ something abstruse, and all the tenets of
 “ religion, that are the objects of under-
 “ standing, are plain and clear, to every
 “ well meaning unprejudiced mind. Can
 “ reading, when it has the effects I have
 “ mentioned, be of no use in conversation ?
 “ On

" On the contrary, it is the very soul of
 " it, since we thereby gain a variety of
 " ideas, and a justness, a strength, and
 " clearness of reason, to discourse upon
 " them. When the conversation, as is
 " sometimes the case, turns on any parti-
 " cular science, than indeed, a circumstan-
 " tial remembrance of facts, of tenets, of
 " doctrines, is useful, and may be proper-
 " ly introduced; but in general, when
 " they are uttered in common miscella-
 " neous discourse, they are mere indigested
 " crudities, which seem to lie heavy on
 " the mind, and are discharged only to
 " ease it of its burden."

" I perceive, madam," said Miss Wil-
 " kins, " all this is aimed at me."

" It is so indeed, my dear," replied Mrs.
 Wheatly, " I never make a fly attack on
 " any one. I would not have taken the
 " trouble of talking so long, if I had not
 " hoped to serve you by it; and that is a
 " motive I have no reason to wish to con-
 " ceal from you. The fault I mean to
 " censure in you, is your too great desire
 " of making a parade of your reading, par-
 " don me, if I cannot call it learning,
 " which leads you into the use of terms
 " of science, and hard words, and induces
 " you to make such strained allusions to
 " historical facts, or philosophic tenets, as
 " do

“do greater discredit to your judgment,
 “than honour to your memory. When
 “you have taken pains to ornament your
 “person, to the best advantage, would you
 “think of recommending it to the spec-
 “tators, by telling them how many hours
 “you had passed at the toilette? On the
 “contrary, you would wish to conceal
 “your labours, and that the agreeable
 “effects they had had on your appearance,
 “should be considered as the gifts of na-
 “ture, charms entirely your own, and not
 “bestowed by art. Why not think in the
 “same manner in regard to your mind?
 “Conceal your laborious endeavours to
 “adorn it, and let the effects pass for na-
 “tural graces. We acknowledge that art
 “to be most exquisite, which bears the
 “appearance of nature, wherever the sub-
 “ject will admit of it.

“In respect to our minds, the affair is
 “very delicate; if we boast of having
 “taken much pains to cultivate them,
 “people will expect to find them propor-
 “tionably improved; and should that ex-
 “pectation be disappointed, we bring dis-
 “grace on ourselves. Our industry, indeed,
 “will deserve praise, but our capacity will
 “be held in low esteem. I do not mean
 “that I would have a person affect to be
 “illiterate; and affectation is odious; but
 “beside

“ beside that objection, to be void of a
 “ desire of improvement is a proof of a
 “ low and groveling mind ; a cold and in-
 “ dolent nature may enable such to go
 “ through life with tolerable innocence ;
 “ but I will venture to say, they will never
 “ have a title to any merit beyond being
 “ inoffensive. You will understand that I
 “ speak of persons, who have the means
 “ and opportunity of improvement, within
 “ their reach and observation ; in those who
 “ have not, the desire may exist, but lie
 “ dormant for want of calls to awaken it
 “ to the pursuits we are now alluding to ;
 “ for still the desire will operate in such
 “ things as fall within their sphere of ac-
 “ tion. What I would wish, therefore, is,
 “ that a young lady would suffer her read-
 “ ing to be perceived in its general effects
 “ on her mind, and not give it us in re-
 “ tail.”

“ Must a woman then,” asked Miss
 Wilkins, “ never converse on learned sub-
 “ jects?”

“ To say she should ~~not~~,” answered Mrs.
 Wheatley, “ would be carrying the matter
 “ rather too far ; but I think she should
 “ never begin such a conversation, except
 “ with a very intimate friend. Ignorance,
 “ if not from any neglect of our own, is
 “ the object of pity, but pedantry is the
 “ object

“ object of contempt ; in keeping clear of
 “ that imputation, we are therefore on the
 “ safe side. In this respect, we must regu-
 “ late ourselves by the age and customs of
 “ the country wherein we live. Greater
 “ latitude is allowed our sex in this respect
 “ now, than when I was young. But still
 “ a young woman should suffer what know-
 “ ledge she has acquired, to be extracted
 “ from her by those she converses with,
 “ and that not with too much facility, in-
 “ stead of ostentatiously producing it un-
 “ called for ; the modesty with which it
 “ appears in the first case, is its best orna-
 “ ment, and gives it a grace that charms
 “ the candid, and disarms envy ; it is then
 “ a merit without a drawback ; but in the
 “ other, it has given rise to a fault for which
 “ it cannot compensate ; for no learning,
 “ that a woman can arrive at, will make
 “ amends for conceit. Learning in one of
 “ our sex should suit Milton’s description
 “ of Eve’s conduct,” “ Not obvious, not
 “ obtrusive, but retired.”

“ When a woman ceases to be young, I
 “ think less reserve is requisite ; she has
 “ little reason to consider herself as of a pe-
 “ culiar sex ; age has deprived her of the
 “ charms of femality, and she is become
 “ of that common gender, the rational be-
 “ ing ; and as such may without impro-
 “ priety

"priety mix in any rational conversation,
 "if she suffers herself to be led, and not
 "to lead into learned subjects. Those
 "who do so are of service to their sex, as
 "they will in time emancipate us from the
 "fettters laid on our conversation; and by
 "rendering such subjects more common in
 "mixed companies, will make discourse
 "more rational, and prevent the charge of
 "pedantry from being so liberally applied
 "to any young woman, who ventures to
 "stray from the trifling topics generally
 "assigned to us; but my young friends, I
 "would have you wait till this change is
 "effected, before you indulge yourselves
 "in the most moderate display of your
 "reading; for more than *moderate*, even
 "custom could not sanctify."

I have given you, my dear mamma, as
 exactly as my memory would permit this
 long conversation, not only from a desire
 to imprint it on my own mind, but to quiet
 the fears my grand pappa has, you say,
 sometimes expressed, lest Mrs. Wheatley
 should make her scholars pedantic; for af-
 ter so full a display of her opinion on this
 subject, I think no one can believe there is
 any danger of it. The conversation did
 not end here, but I have related, perhaps,
 more than enough. Miss Wilkins held a
 long argument with her on the subject;
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and, to her honour I speak it, seemed at last so far convinced, that Mrs. Wheatley ventured to desire she would permit her to stop her discourse, whenever she fell into the errors she had been blaming, and to give her leave to suggest easy and proper words in exchange for those she objected to. Miss Wilkins, hesitated something like a consent, which was full as much as could reasonably be expected; and Mrs. Wheatley thanked her for the condescension, without seeming to observe the ill grace with which it was made. Had it not been for this liberty, I do not suppose she could ever have been brought out of her altitudes, for they are become too habitual to be perceived by herself.

HISTORICAL CATECHISM.

LESSON LXIII.

Q. Did Antiochus take no part in the wars you have been relating?

A. No: he at that time had carried his arms eastward, reduced Media and Parthia into subjection, formed alliances with the kings of Bachia; and after having spent seven years in this expedition, and, by the various dangers and difficulties, he surmounted

surmounted, acquired great glory, he returned to Antioch about the time Philip made peace with the Romans, and that Ptolomy Philopater died.

Q. Had Ptolomy acquitted himself better in the latter part of his reign than at the beginning?

A. By no means: after defeating Antiochus, having no enemy to fear, he indulged his vicious disposition without restraint, and was entirely governed by Agathoclea, his concubine, her mother, and her brother Agathocles. His queen, Arsinoe, not bearing very patiently the power most wantonly exercised by these people, and the indignities she suffered from them, and the chief ministers was, by the king's order, put to death; murder, being a crime to which he had never shewn any reluctance. He at length fell a sacrifice to his vices at the age of seven and thirty.

Q. Who succeeded Ptolomy Philopater?

A. His son Ptolomy Epiphanes, then an infant: a circumstance, which encouraged Antiochus and Philip to enter into an alliance, to dispossess him of his kingdom, expecting an easy conquest during the weakness of a minority.

Q. What success had they in this ungenerous design?

A. Antio.

A. Antiochus immediately invading the dominions of the young king, subdued Palestine and Cælosyria, while Philip delayed his share of the enterprize to carry on a war, at first unsuccessfully, with Attalus, king of Pergamus and the Rhodians. He afterwards took the city of Abydos, laid waste the country of Attica, and besieged Athens; but both these princes were stopped in the midst of their conquests by the Romans, who accepted the offer of guardianship to the young Ptolomy, made to them by the Egyptians; and undertook also the defence of their Grecian allies.

Q. In what manner did the Romans act?

A. Having declared war against Philip, they sent an army into Attica, obliged the king's troops to raise the siege of Athens, and defeated him in person; after which the Ætolians and Achæans entered into a league with the victorious Romans, into which Nabis, tyrant of Sparta, and the Bæotians were afterwards received; and at length the Romans obtained a signal victory over Philip, near the hills called Cynoscephale, in Thessalia, whereby Philip was reduced into so desperate a situation, that he was glad to accept a peace on such

H conditions

conditions as the Romans thought proper to dictate.

Q. What were the terms of this peace?

A. Such as did the highest honour to the Romans: they required Philip to withdraw his garrisons from all the Grecian cities of which he had possessed himself, both in Europe and Asia, engaging to do the like themselves, except in regard to Chalcis and Demetrius, which they had taken from Philip. They obliged him likewise to pay them a yearly tribute, deliver up almost all his ships, and to give them his son Demetrius as an hostage. And the time of celebration of the Isthmian games being then come, Quintus Flaminius, the Roman general, caused a herald to proclaim that the Romans restored all the Grecian cities to their ancient liberty, and ordained that they should be governed by their respective laws and customs; which filled the whole assembly with such transports of joy and gratitude, that Flaminius was almost crushed to death by the people, who pressed upon him to kiss his hand, and throw crowns of flowers upon him. He then visited most of the cities in Greece; reformed their laws; advised new ones where good order required it; appeased the quarrels and seditions among

among the citizens, and procured the recalling of exiles.

Q. When was this memorable action performed?

A. 197 years before Christ.

Q. Did any one refuse to comply with the conditions of this treaty?

A. Nabis, tyrant of Sparta, still retained the city of Argos; upon which the Romans, in conjunction with the rest of Greece, made war upon him, and obliged him to restore Argos to its liberty; took from him the greatest part of his fleet; and the Romans exacted a considerable annual tribute, and required his son to be given them as an hostage. Flaminius spent the following winter in restoring regularity and order to the Grecian cities, which were still in a good deal of confusion; and before he set out on his return to Italy, withdrew the garrisons from Chalcis, Demetrius, and the citadel of Corinth.

Q. Did Antiochus take no part in this war?

A. His views were otherwise directed: after he had subdued, as already mentioned, Cælosyria and Palestine, he carried his arms into Asia Minor; and Aristomenes, whom the Romans had appointed governor of Egypt, taking advantage of his ab-

fence recovered those provinces ; but Antiochus soon after re-conquered them.

Q. Did he annex them to the kingdom of Syria ?

A. No. : having determined to make war on the Romans and Grecians, in concert with the Ætolians and Spartans, he married his daughter Cleopatra to Ptolomy, and gave her those provinces for her Dower, in order to form such an alliance with the Egyptians as would prevent his being molested by them in the war he meditated ; to which he was warmly instigated by Hannibal, who had fled to him for refuge against a prevailing faction in Carthage.

Q. Did he in fact engage in a war with the Romans ?

A. He did : but not till after he had lost one of his allies, Nabis, tyrant of Sparta, who having infringed the peace made under the auspices of Flaminius, was opposed by the Achæans, who, under the command of Philopæmen, defeated him. The Ætolians afterwards treacherously endeavouring, under the mask of friendship, to seize Sparta, Nabis was slain in the contest ; and the Spartans defended themselves so well, that all the Ætolians engaged in the enterprize were cut to pieces. Philopæmen taking advantage of the opportunity,

nity, prevailed with the Spartans to enter into the Achæan league.

Q. In what year did the war between Antiochus and the Romans begin ?

A. Antiochus entered Greece in the year 192 before Christ.

HISTORICAL CATECHISM.

LESSON LXIV.

Q. What was Antiochus's first enterprize in Greece ?

A. The possessing himself of Chalcis and all Euboea, where he met with little opposition; he afterwards took some cities in Theffaly: then retiring to Chalcis, fell passionately in love with a young girl of that city; and marrying her, spent the rest of the winter in feasts and rejoicings, in celebration of his nuptials.

Q. Was he suffered to enjoy his festivity undisturbed ?

A. Not very long: he was obliged to march into Theffaly to make head against the Romans, who had led an army thither; from them he received a total defeat, and was reduced to fly to Ephesus; Chalcis, with the rest of his conquests, having immediately submitted to the Romans.

Q. In what did the Romans next employ their forces?

A. They entered Ætolia; took Heraclæa, the capital city, by storm, beside others of less note, and greatly distressed that state. The senate of Rome at this time restored Demetrius to his father Philip, in reward for the services that king had done the Romans in this war; and the following year they remitted what remained unpaid of the tribute due to them. Soon after the victory already mentioned, the Romans gained a naval one over the fleet of Antiochus, near Mount Corychus in Ionia: but that prince equipping another fleet with great expedition, it defeated that of the Rhodians, allies to the Romans; but was afterwards in great measure destroyed, when commanded by Hannibal, in a naval engagement with the Romans: and to complete the distress of Antiochus, a fleet he again fitted out met with the same fate, being totally overthrown by the Romans.

Q. Was Antiochus more successful by land?

A. On the contrary, the Romans having followed him into Asia, he gave them battle near Magnesia at the foot of Mount Sipylus, where he received so total a defeat, that no other resource was left him but

but to sue for peace, on whatever conditions the Romans should think proper.

Q. what terms did the Romans prescribe?

A. That Antiochus should relinquish all Asia on this side Mount Taurus; pay all the expences of the war; discharge a debt they owed to Eumenes, king of Pergamus, son and successor to Attalus; and deliver twenty hostages to be chosen by the Romans, among whom was his son, who bore likewise the name of Antiochus.

Q. What use did the Romans make of their great conquests in Asia?

A. Lycaonia, the two Phrygias and Mysia, they gave to king Eumenes; Lycia, part of Pisidia, and that part of Caria which lies nearest Rhodes, they yielded to the Rhodians, excepting from the portion of each, such cities as enjoyed their freedom before the last battle fought with Antiochus; and these were all declared free, exempt from all subjection and tribute; thus retaining nothing for themselves, but the advantage of having diminished the power of Antiochus, which had been very formidable to them; and securing their own empire by weakening a prince who seemed able to dispute it with them.

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Q. What

Q. What became of the Ætolians, who first invited Antiochus to undertake this fatal war?

A. Deprived of the assistance of Antiochus, the Ætolians were soon subdued, and glad to accept peace on the hard condition of delivering up their arms and horses to the Romans; paying them a considerable sum of money; restoring to the Romans and their allies all their prisoners and deserters; engaging to have henceforward no friends or enemies, but what were such to the Romans; and giving forty hostages.

Q. Was Greece at peace after this treaty?

A. It seldom happened that a country composed of so many separate states could be all at peace. The citizens of Sparta, whom Nabis had exiled from the city obtained assistance from the Achæans to reinstate them. Agesipolis, whom Nabis had dethroned, was at the head of the exiles. The Achæans did indeed restore them, but not without exercising great violence and cruelty, and making Sparta feel the weight of their power, for they obliged the citizens to demolish the walls of the city, to abrogate the laws of Lycurgus; and entering into the Achæan league, to form but one state with Achæa, and conform in every

every thing to the laws and customs of that common-wealth.

Q. Did Antiochus perform all the conditions to which he had engaged himself in the treaty he had made with the Romans?

A. He did, at the expence of his life; for not finding means to pay the tribute due to the Romans out of his own treasury, he plundered the temple of Jupiter Belus, in Elymais, which so much exasperated the people, that they rebelled and murdered him, and his attendants. His son Seleucus Philopater succeeded him.

Q. In what year was the peace concluded between Antiochus and the Romans?

A. In the year 189 before Christ: after the war had continued three years.

Q. Did the Spartans acquiesce in the hard conditions which the Achæans had required of them?

A. No: They appealed to the Roman Senate, who, taking cognizance of the affair, and, perhaps, more actuated by a desire of lessening the power of the Achæans, than by humanity, annulled all they had ordained.

Q. Were the Achæans the only state that felt the power of the Romans?

A. By no means: they assumed a sovereign command over all Greece, and not less over Philip, king of Macedon, who had

had long retained a strong resentment against them, though he feared entering into a war with a power so superior to his own. As complaints were made against him by various cities in Greece, he sent his son Demetrius to plead his cause at Rome, believing he would prove his best advocate, on account of the regard the Romans had conceived for him, while he was an hostage in their city.

Q. Were the spirits of the Achæans much depressed by the treatment they had received from the Romans?

A. It does not appear that they were: for the Messenians having withdrawn from the Achæan league, and preparing to attack them, Philopæmen, though seventy years of age, and at that time sick, marched immediately to Messene.

Q. With what success?

A. His forces were routed by the Messenians: he himself being wounded was taken prisoner, and put to death; but the Achæans, fired with revenge, took Messene; and after having taken vengeance on the authors of Philopæmen's death, treated the Messenians with great lenity, and received their city again into the Achæan league.

GEO.

GEOGRAPHICAL CATECHISM.

LESSON XVI.

OF FRANCE.

Q. What is the situation, and what are the boundaries of France?

A. The territories of the king of France extend from the thirteenth to the twenty-sixth degree of east longitude; and from the forty-third to the fifty-first of north latitude. It is bounded on the south by the Mediterranean Sea, and Spain, from which it is separated by the Pyrenean Mountains; to the west by the Western Ocean; to the north by the British or St. George's Channel, and the Netherlands; and to the east by Germany, Switzerland, and Italy.

Q. How is France divided?

A. Variously: but the division at present most in use is, that of the military governments, of which there are thirty-seven in number.

Q. What are they?

A. 1st.

	Chief towns
A. 1. The government of Paris.	Paris, a large populous city, and the metropolis of the whole kingdom.
2. The Isle of France.	Soissons and St. Denis.
3. Picardy and Artois.	Ameins, Abbeville, Boulogne, and Calais.
4. Champagne and Brie.	Rheims, Troyes, and Chalons.
5. Burgundy.	Dijons.
6. Dauphine.	Grenoble.
7. Provence.	Aix, Arles, Marseilles, Toulon and Avignon.
8. Languedoc.	Toulouse, Montpellier, and Nimes.
9. Foix.	Foix.
10. Roussillon.	Perpignan.
11. Navarre and Bearn.	Pau and St. Jean.
12. Guyenne and Gascogne.	Bordeaux.
13. Saintonge and Angoumois.	Saintes and Angoulesme.
14. Aunis.	Rochelle.
15. Poitou.	Poitiers.
16. Bretagne.	Rennes, Nantes, and Brest.

	Chief towns.
17. Normandy.	Rouen, Evreux, and Dieppe.
18. Havre de Grace.	Havre de Grace.
19. Maine and Perche.	Mans and Mortagne.
20. Orleanois.	Orleans and Blois.
21. Nivernois.	Nevers.
22. Bourbonnois.	Moulins.
23. Lionnois.	Lyons.
24. Auvergne.	Clermont.
25. Limosin.	Limoges.
26. La Marche.	Gueret.
27. Berry.	Bourges.
28. Touraine.	Tours.
29. Anjou.	Angers.
30. Saumur.	Saumur.
31. Flandres.	L'Isle, and Cambray.
32. Dunkirk.	Dunkirk.
33. Metz.	Metz.
34. Lorraine and Bar.	Nancy.
35. Verdun and Toul.	Verdun and Toul.
36. Alsace.	Strasbourg, a free city.
37. Franche Comté.	Besançon.

Q. What kind of government is established in France?

A. The government is monarchical and nearly despotic. The crown is hereditary in

in the male heirs, but the females are excluded by the Salic law.

Q. Of what temperature is the climate?

A. The air is healthful, dry, and temperate, especially in the southern parts of the kingdom; and the soil is fertile.

Q. What is the established religion?

A. That of the church of Rome: but the pope is not so implicitly obeyed there as in some other Roman Catholic countries; the inquisition never could gain admittance into France. The Christian faith is said to have been planted there by some of St. Peter's disciples, sent thither on his first coming to Rome.

Q. What are the principal manufactures in France?

A. In tapestry, velvets, and various kinds of silk, they particularly excell; but the wine made there is one of their most profitable branches of trade.

Q. Of what dispositions are the French?

A. They are a people of lively genius, and gay tempers, polite, easy, and amusing; but much puffed up with national vanity. We are apt to charge them with insincerity, but if they, in fact, deserve it, possibly it may be more owing to vivacity than design; if they do not give themselves leisure to reflect on the full weight of their words, we can scarcely call them insincere, because

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because they fall short of their professions; they are rather thoughtless than false. In treaties between our nation and their's, we have not, indeed, found them deficient either in thought or art.

OF PORTUGAL.

Q. How is Portugal bounded?

A. Portugal, formerly called *Lusitania*, is at present bounded on the south and West by the Atlantic ocean; and on the north and east by Spain.

Q. How is it divided?

A. Into six provinces: which are as follows:

Provinces.	Chief towns.
Entredouro-eminho.	Porto, Braga, Viana and Valença.
Traz-os-montes.	
Beira.	Miranda, Braganca, and Villa Real.
	Coimbra, Guarda, Lamego and Viseu.
Estremadura.	Lisbon and Leiria.
Alente.	
The Algarve.	
	Beja, Evora, Elyas. Lagos, Faro, and Tavira.

Q. What islands ought to be described in this place?

A. Those

A. Those of Porto Santo, and Madeira, on account of their vicinity, lying in the Atlantic ocean to the west of Portugal, and the Azores annexed to Portugal. The chief place in Porto Santo bears the same name, that of Madeira is funncl.

Q. What is the government of Portugal?

A. Monarchical: Philip the second, king of Spain, got possession of it, and it continued subject to the Spanish crown till the year 1640; when the Portuguese, no longer inclined to submit publicly to the tyranny which the Spaniards exercised over them, expelled them the country, and placed the crown on the head of John, Duke of Braganza, the lawful heir; and since that time Portugal has maintained its independency.

Q. What mode of religion is established there?

A. That of the church of Rome: and there is no kingdom where the cruelties of the inquisition have been carried to so dreadful an excess; but of late the king has shewn an inclination to moderate the severities of that cruel tribunal.

Q. Is Portugal a fertile country?

A. The soil being of a dry nature, and the land mountainous, it produces but little grain, but the fineness of the air is very favourable to various kinds of fruit, which are there in great perfection.

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Adieu, my dear mamma, give me leave to conclude a letter on so many various subjects, with the assurance so often repeated, since I am, and must be, invariably, your most dutiful, most affectionate, and obliged daughter,

MARIA MILTON.

LETTER XXXIX.

My dear Mamma,

I M A G I N E no follies are so hard to cure, as those that have been adopted under the notion of wisdom. Miss Le Maine, with unwillingness, suffered her polite style to be corrected; but when she found it unavoidable to continue what she thought genteel, she submitted with a tolerable grace to become, in her opinion, vulgar and awkward; but a greater sacrifice is required of Miss Wilkins; and can one blame her reluctance to part with her wisdom? after having, for some years, flattered herself with the belief of out-shining all her sex, and that, in a great degree, as it was proportioned to her super-eminence in hard words; to lose all that distinction, by regulating her phrases according to the common standard of discourse, must appear
no

no trifling sacrifice. She this morning shewed us a diagonal rent in her apron, the consequence of an unlucky stumble, and observed, that had not a flower oportunately intervened, the fracture would certainly have extended from angle to angle. Judge how she must suffer at being required to sink into the simple sempstresses terms !

She would as expertly handle a spear as a needle, having been as little accustomed to the one as the other. She says she never could bring herself to attempt to sew, there is something so low in those manual operations, wherein the intellectual powers have no part, that she thinks nothing but necessity can excuse them in a rational Being. Mrs. Wheatley told her, that she, by no means, wished to make any of her friends great workers, whose fortunes rendered it unnecessary for them; but as some knowledge in needle-work was considered as an indispensable part of the female character, she begged she would, as a favour to her, learn it in some degree, and prevailed with her to begin; and if in her attempt she did not shew much dexterity, she at least gave no small proof of her patience, for in her own style she made so many punctures in her fingers with that sharp instrument, the needle, that I began to be afraid we should see her a living representative of that same
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bungling sempstress, whose monument is shewn in Westminster Abbey, as a proof, that a needle may be the instrument of death. I think I may venture to affirm, that if there was any part in Miss Wilkins's fingers liable to such a fatal effusion of blood, she must, before this time, have fallen a sacrifice to her compliance with Mrs. Wheatley's request. To console her under this painful, and to her, humiliating employment, Mrs. Wheatley represented to her, that among some of the most learned women, this country, or any other ever produced, she may find some of the best œconomists that the sex can boast, and who excell as much in domestic virtues, as in talents. These she enumerated, and by giving an account of their excellence in these points, brought her to behold her needle with less contempt, and to abate of the awkwardness with which she affected to handle it.

I could not help thinking, that Mrs. Wheatley had now an impracticable task, because Miss Wilkins may be lowered many degrees in pedantry, and yet remain an insufferable coxcomb; but Mrs. Wheatley is of opinion, that she will be brought right with rather more ease, for having got to the utmost extreme of conceit, she says it will be possible to convince
her

her of an error, so very gross, as to admit of a degree of ridicule that must strike her, even through her strongest prepossessions; and when she is made sensible of it, she will find it as easy to conquer it entirely, as to reduce it into more moderate bounds; beside that, her affectation is so very elaborate, that she cannot continue it inadvertently. Small errors grow imperceptible to those that commit them, but her absurdities are premeditated, for she evidently takes wonderful pains to recollect terms sufficiently scientific to satisfy her ambition of distinguishing herself.

Mrs. Wheatley feels a sincere compassion for this young Lady; the fault, she says, should be charged on the parents, who educated her, though she is in danger of being the sufferer by it. She laments that injudicious vanity in parents, which too often leads them to convert the superior talents of their children to their greatest disadvantage, by flattering them into a conceit, far worse than ignorance, instead of carefully endeavouring to keep down the vanity which, unencouraged, might naturally arise in their youthful minds, by teaching them to consider, that all their acquisitions should be directed to *use*, not *shew*. She would have them inculcate to their children the propriety of a modest

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concealment of their accomplishments, by never speaking of them in company; instead of the too common method of boasting of the progress their child has made in her studies, and endeavouring to make her shine before people, who, void of parental partiality, will, at best, blame, and too probably, ridicule both parent and child, as soon as they depart, though while present they may be insincere enough to contribute to the child's destruction by flattery.

HISTORICAL CATECHISM.

LESSON LXV.

Q. Who reigned at this time in Egypt?

A. Ptolomy Epiphanes was still on that throne: during the minority of this prince his kingdom had been governed with great wisdom and justice by Aristomenes, but Ptolomy had not possessed the reins of government above a year, when growing weary of the prudent counsels of his former governor, he put him to death by poison, and gave himself up to the most vicious courses; till finding his cruelty had excited conspiracies among his people, and that they were ripe for rebellion, he chose

chose Polycrates, the son of Aristomenes, his prime minister, who twice overcame the rebels; but in a very few years after, Ptolomy was slain by the principal persons of his court, and his son Ptolomy Philometor was placed on the throne; who being only six years of age, his mother, Cleopatra, the daughter of Antiochus, was appointed regent.

Q. In what year was Ptolomy Epiphanes assassinated?

A. In the year 180 before Christ, and the 29th year of his reign.

Q. What success had Demetrius in his father's cause at Rome?

A. He met there with a very gracious reception, and in consideration of his merits, nothing was then determined against his father; to whom they wrote in terms of high esteem for Demetrius; which exciting the old king's jealousy, Perseus, his eldest son, but not born in wedlock, took advantage of it, to accuse Demetrius of criminal intentions, both against the king his father, and himself.

Q. Was Perseus successful in this black attempt?

A. So much: so that by the most treacherous means, having deceived Philip into a belief of the criminal designs of Demetrius, he caused him to be poisoned.

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Q. Was Philip satisfied with what he had done?

A. On the contrary, he was extremely miserable from the time of Demetrius's death, and lamented the loss of him in the bitterest terms; but this distress was greatly heightened two years after this murder, by a full discovery of the treachery practised against the unfortunate prince, which filled Philip with the deepest remorse. He determined to exclude Perseus from the throne, and to secure the succession to Antigonus, nephew to the Antigonus, who had been his tutor, and regent of the kingdom during his Minority; but the agonies of his mind affected his health so fatally, that he did not live long enough to compass his intention, and at his death was succeeded by Perseus.

Q. When did Philip die?

A. 179 Years before the Christian æra.

Q. Who then reigned in Syria?

A. Seleucus Philopator: whose reign furnishes the historian with no remarkable facts, and was but of eleven years duration, that prince dying a violent death.

Q. In what manner?

A. Being for some reason desirous of the presence of his brother Antiochus, who was still an hostage at Rome, he sent thither his only son Demetrius, then but twelve

twelve years of age, in exchange for his brother. The absence of the younger part of the royal family, appearing an incident favourable to the ambition of Heliodorus, the prime minister of Seleucus, he poisoned that monarch, and seized the throne.

Q. Did he retain the possession of it?

A. But a very short time: for Antiochus Epiphanes, then on his return from Rome, sought the protection of Eumenes, king of Pergamus, and by his assistance expelling Heliodorus, obtained the kingdom; but was scarcely seated on the throne, when he saw himself threatened with a war with Egypt.

Q. On what account?

A. Cleopatra, the mother of Ptolomy Philometor, and regent of his kingdom, being dead, his ministers, for he was then not fourteen years old, formed a design of recovering Cælosyria and Palestine, provinces which had belonged to the kingdom of Egypt, till conquered by Antiochus the Great. This being made known to Antiochus Epiphanes, he judged it most advisable to carry his arms into Egypt, without waiting till he was attacked; expecting a favourable issue to his enterprize, not only on account of Ptolomy's youth, and effeminate education, but from the full employ the Romans had for their forces,

forces, in the war they were then carrying on with Perseus, king of Macedon, which would prevent their giving any considerable assistance to Ptolemy Philometor, their ward.

Q. Was the success of Antiochus answerable to his hopes?

A. Completely so: in two years he twice defeated the Egyptian army, and got his nephew, Ptolemy Philometor, into his hands; whom he treated with all the external appearances of amity, and pretended to have no farther design, than that of being his guardian; till under this specious mask, he had got possession of the whole kingdom, except Alexandria, and then plundered, without mercy, all the richest cities in Egypt.

Q. Were those in Egypt the only cities Antiochus plundered?

A. No: having been informed that great rejoicings were made at Jerusalem on a current report of his death, and that they had been encouraged thereby to depose the high priest he had set over them; he marched to that city, took it by storm, and abandoned it for three days to the fury of the soldiers; during which time fourscore thousand men were slain, forty thousand taken prisoners, and an equal number sold to the neighbouring nations. He entered forcibly

bly into the sanctuary of the temple, and carried away golden utensils to a very great value.

Q. Did Antiochus detain Philometor near his person?

A. He did: till hearing the Alexandrians had, on account of his being in the hands of his uncle, chosen his younger brother, Ptolemy Evergetes, the second, or (as he was afterwards more commonly surnamed) Physcon, their king, he laid siege to Alexandria, on pretence of restoring Philometor, but finding himself in danger of being baffled in his attempt on that city, he yielded so far to the mediation of ambassadors from Rhodes, and the principal Græcian cities, as to raise the siege, and in appearance, to give Philometor the possession of his kingdom; but in reality, with a view of engaging the two brothers in a war, which must so far weaken both, as to render them an easy prey, when a favourable juncture should offer for him to take advantage of it.

Q. Did he succeed in his views?

A. No: Philometor well understanding what they were, sought an union with his brother, which was effected by the mediation of Cleopatra their sister, on condition, that the brothers should reign jointly.

HIS.

HISTORICAL CATECHISM.

LESSON LXVI.

Q. How did Antiochus bear the union of the two Egyptian brothers ?

A. Enraged at finding his views frustrated, he marched at the head of a powerful army into Egypt, declaring himself an equal enemy to both its kings. He conquered the greatest part of the kingdom with rapidity, and was preparing to besiege Alexandria, when he was met by ambassadors from Rome, sent on application made to that republic by the younger Ptolemy, and his sister Cleopatra, when they were first besieged in Alexandria by Antiochus.

Q. What did these ambassadors do in their favour ?

A. They acquainted Antiochus, that the senate required each side to forbear hostilities, and come to a speedy agreement ; and that, which either refused to comply, should, instead of a friend and ally, be esteemed an enemy by the Roman people.

Q. What answer did Antiochus give to this peremptory command ?

I 2

A. He

A. He sought delay, and required time to consult with his friends: Popilius, the chief of the ambassadors, then with his wand, drew a circle round that prince, and required him to return an answer to the senate before he stepped out of that circle. The king intimidated by the haughtiness of the Roman, declared he would obey the senate; which, indeed, he durst no longer offend, having heard, that the republic had put an end to the Macedonian war, by taking Perseus prisoner.

Q. Though this is a very considerable event, I shall delay asking you any account of it at present, to avoid interrupting the history of Antiochus. In what undertaking did he engage after this enforced peace with the Egyptians?

A. Although the Jews had not given him any reasonable cause of offence, in his return from Egypt, he sent a detachment of twenty thousand men to Jerusalem, with orders to destroy the city, which they not only did, but killed every man in it, sold the women and children into slavery, and carried away every thing that was valuable therein.

Q. Did his persecution of the Jews stop here?

A. No: when he arrived at Antioch, he published a decree, commanding the several

several nations in his dominions to worship the same gods, and in the same manner as he did. Such of the Jews, as the Syrian governor could get into his power, who would not conform to this edict, were put to death in the most cruel torments, but their amazing fortitude, and pious courage is so exemplary, that it ought not to be related with the conciseness to which I confine myself, and, indeed, cannot be described, as it deserves, by me, but may, at large, be read in the book of the Maccabees.

Q. Did the king meet with no interruption in the exercise of his cruelty?

A. With such as we must esteem miraculous: Judas Maccabeus being appointed general of the small number of Jews, who dared to oppose Antiochus, twice defeated the Syrians; whereupon the king sent an army of forty-seven thousand men, whom Judas, with only three thousand, overthrew. This success brought some increase to his little forces, with which he gained a victory over another army of Syrians, wherein above twenty thousand were slain; and he afterwards defeated an army of sixty-five thousand.

Q. How did Antiochus bear such a series of ill success?

I 3

A. He

A. He was then in Persia, employed in reducing that people, who had refused the payment of their usual tribute; but on receiving accounts of the repeated victories gained over his troops by the Jews, he was enraged to the highest degree, and immediately set out, in order chastise them himself, but was taken ill on the road. Even sickness could not make him abate his speed, and he proceeded with such precipitation, that he was thrown out of his chariot, and bruised in the most miserable manner. He was then put in a litter; his bruises mortified, his flesh dropt off, worms were bred in every part of his body, and he expired in the extremest tortures both of body and mind. Daniel, in the eleventh chapter of his book, and likewise in other places, foretold, most circumstantially, the most remarkable occurrences in the reign of Antiochus.

Q. He does, indeed, with amazing clearness, and would our necessary brevity permit it, I should, with great pleasure, enumerate these prophecies. When did Antiochus die?

A. 187 Years before Christ.

Q. Now, if you please, I shall require from you, some account of the war between the Macedonians and the Romans?

A. Perseus

A. Perseus was no sooner on the throne, than he meditated a war with the Romans, for which his father had made considerable preparations. He endeavoured to prevail with the Achæans to enter into a league with him, but failed in the attempt. He then applied to many other of the Grecian cities, and several of them engaged in alliance with him. His wife being dead, killed by his own hand, as many historians report, he married Laodice, the daughter of Seleucus. Eumenes made a journey to Rome, in order to give the Romans a circumstantial detail of the preparations making by Perseus against him; which so exasperated that monarch, that after Eumenes's return from Rome, he caused him to be assassinated as he was going to Rhodes; but though extremely wounded, Eumenes escaped with his life. Perseus being disappointed in this event, endeavoured to have him poisoned, but the person employed by him, discovered the treachery to the Roman senate, who then declared war against him.

Q. What was the success of this war?

A. In the first year, only an engagement of cavalry passed between them, wherein Perseus had considerably the advantage; but not prosecuting his victory, he gave the Romans time to secure the rest of their

army. The year following, when he heard the Roman consul had entered Macedonia at the head of a great army, he ordered the treasures he had laid up at Pella to be thrown into the sea, and such galleys as he had at Thessalonia to be burnt, lest they should fall into the enemies hands; but as soon as he recovered from his terror he countermanded those orders.

Q. Had they been executed?

A. That in regard to the treasures had been obeyed; the person employed to perform the others had delayed the execution, from the hope of the king's changing his mind. The treasures too, were recovered by divers; but Perseus, with a view of keeping secret so great a proof of his pusillanimity, caused all the persons concerned in either of those affairs, to be secretly murdered.

The death of Demetrius was given to one of the young ladies as an exercise, and **I shall** copy her relation of it.

During the long abode Demetrius made at Rome, he had much ingratiated himself with the Romans, and at the same time became warmly attached to them. The favour they shewed him on all occasions, particularly in the last negotiation he had with them, when he was employed by his father to defend him in the senate against the

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the well founded accusations brought hither against him, raised fears in the old King, lest he should avail himself of such powerful friends, and be tempted to encroach on his power, which was rendered more easy, by the great attachment the Macedonians had to him; who not only respected him for the good qualities he possessed, but courted him as their future Prince, not doubting but the Romans would place him on the throne on Philip's death. Perseus, Philip's eldest son, was more criminally affected, by the consideration with which Demetrius was treated; the father only feared, but the brother hated; he was sensible that the illegitimacy of his birth, would invalidate all the claim he could plead from its priority, and prove a reason for the Romans to prefer Demetrius to the throne. As the objects of ambition are great, so are frequently the crimes, by which it ascends the ladder of greatness. Perseus thought a throne not too dearly purchased by the death of his brother; but not to lose the benefit of his crime, by being charged with all the odium of it, determined to effect it by treachery, and not by open force.

As nothing was more displeasing to Philip, than Demetrius's regard for the Romans, whom he equally feared and

hated : Perseus and his adherents took every opportunity, by invieghing against, and ridiculing the Romans, to draw the artless Prince into a defence of them. The love of truth, and his attachment to that great people, whose wisdom he revered, and whose generous conduct towards him had made a deep impression on his grateful heart, inclined him to enter warmly into it; and every thing said in their favour appeared criminal in the eyes of his prejudiced father. Thus Philip's mind was filled with suspicions and disgust, and ready to receive every impression that was unfavourable to Demetrius.

The tempers of the court were in this state, when an annual sacrifice and ceremony was performed. It was then usual to review the army, which being divided, and each division commanded by one of the princes, they engaged in a kind of tournament, or mock battle, but the hatred subsisting between the brothers, occasioned its being carried on with more animosity than suited an engagement intended as an amusement: and although their weapons were only made of wood, yet several on each side were dangerously wounded, and Demetrius's band were conquerors. The festival usually concluded with an evening banquet, Demetrius invited Perseus to partake

take of his feast, but the latter refused to come. Yet believing no time was so favourable to his desire of getting some grounds whereon, to form an accusation against his brother, that might exasperate the old King against him, as a season of mirth and intemperance, when the passions are heated, and reason and caution laid aside, he sent some spies to watch what passed at Demetrius's table. One of these spies was discovered by four young persons of Demetrius's train, who treated him very roughly, but did not acquaint their master, either with their discovery or their behaviour thereupon.

The young Prince heated with wine, and the natural frankness of his heart being thereby enlarged, proposed to his guests to go and conclude the feast at his brother's house; believing, that such a mark of confidence and good-will, could not fail of being well received by him, and that all their animosities might be drowned in the festivity of the day. Those who had ill treated the spy, were alone unwilling to accompany him, but he would not admit of their absence; and they, fearing the resentment of Perseus, concealed arms under their cloaths, in order to defend themselves, if revenge should be attempted.

Perseus

Perseus was informed of this circumstance before Demetrius reached his doors, which he commanded should be barred against him, and called out of the windows to his servants, to prevent the Prince from entering, who came only with an intention to assassinate him. Demetrius, still ignorant of the whole affair of the spy, after complaining of this treatment, returned back with his company, and renewed the festival.

Perseus's hours were differently employed; he passed the night in devising the surest means of making this affair answer his purpose; accordingly, the next morning, as soon as the King was awake, in the most artful manner imaginable, he accused Demetrius of an intention first to kill him in the mock battle, and that failing, to poison him at his feast, but frustrated again in this intention, by Perseus's refusal to partake of it with him; he then assaulted his house in the night, with a design of assassinating him. Intimating, that when he should have thus removed one impediment to his ascending the throne, a man so wicked, and favoured by so formidable power as the Romans, would not long suffer a father's life to obstruct the gratification of his ambition. Philip, afflicted at the enmity between his sons, determined to hear them

them more as a judge than a father, and sent for Demetrius to answer to the accusation. The unfortunate Prince was called from his bed, where he was enjoying that rest, which was necessary to refresh him after the intemperance of the night, and was hurried before his father, ignorant of what was to be laid to his charge. He there heard himself accused by Perseus of the crimes I have related, and every circumstance added that could awaken the old King's fears, or inflame his passions. But truth requires so little preparation, and innocence so little art to decorate it, that surprized and shocked as Demetrius was at so detestable an accusation, he defended himself with great force and clearness, and without question, convinced the King of the falshood of the charge, since he told them he would pronounce no decision, but judge by their future behaviour of the rectitude of their intentions.

Though Philip no longer thought Demetrius guilty of an attempt on his brother's life, yet his mind was filled with fears and suspicions, and he sent Philocles and Apelles to Rome, under pretence of a negociation, but in fact to discover how the Romans stood affected towards Demetrius, and in what manner that Prince had talked and conducted himself when in that city.

These

These men, unknown to Philip, were Perseus's adherents, and parties with him in all his designs against his brother.

Demetrius seeing the danger he was in, since Perseus even prevented his having access to his father, though he was ignorant what was then transacting against him, became extremely cautious in his behaviour and conversation, avoiding every thing that might excite envy, or give offence; he forbore ever speaking of the Romans, or keeping up any intercourse with them, even by letters. But Didas, another of Perseus's instruments, who was ordered to ingratiate himself into his confidence, omitted no means of increasing his discontent, and awakening his apprehensions, till at length he determined to fly to the Romans for safety, Didas having offered to assist him in his escape.

At this time the ambassadors returned, fraught with all such pretended intelligence as might exasperate the King, but particularly with a forged letter from Quintus Flaminius, the most respectable of the Roman Senate, and the chief friend of Demetrius, addressed to Philip, exculpating himself from having inspired Demetrius with any designs on the crown, and intreating him to forgive his son the unguarded expressions that had dropped from him.

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Philip now no longer doubted his son's criminal ambition. Perseus again accused him, and alledged his design of flying to the Romans, but the forged letter from Quintus made the strongest impression in his disfavour on his father's mind; but fear of the people, by whom Demetrius was adored, prevented his pronouncing a decisive sentence, thinking it more safe to engage Didas to poison him, which he very readily performed. Though fear and jealousy had suppressed the tender feelings of a father, yet they had not extinguished them; too late they returned into Philip's breast, and punished him for the cruelty they had not prevented. Though he believed his son guilty of the charge brought against him, yet he continually lamented his untimely fate, and felt the extremest anguish in reflecting on his too rigorous treatment of so amiable a son. The conduct of Perseus added to his affliction; that Prince, having no longer any competitor for the succession, paid little respect to his father, whose declining age made him neglected by the venal courtiers, while they paid diligent court to the Prince, who would soon be in a capacity of gratifying their ambitions or mercenary views.

In this general defection, Antigonus (nephew to Antigonus Doson, who had been guardian

guardian to Philip) was most constant in his attachment to the old King; and two years after the death of Demetrius, acquainted him with the treachery that had been practised against that young Prince; a discovery which only increased his wretchedness. The immediate instruments in the plot he put to death; and though sensible he had not sufficient power to bring Perseus to the same punishment, he determined to exclude him from the throne, and to substitute Antigonus in his place, whose merits rendered him worthy of the exaltation, and he would probably have seen his endeavours crowned with success, had he lived a little longer; but remorse and horror had so strong an effect on his mind, that he could not obtain any sleep, and he died more worn out with agony of soul than with old age, before he had perfected his plan, and the detestable Perseus reaped the fruits of his villany, and therein received the severest punishment that could have been inflicted on him.

You will, perhaps, my dear Mamma, think I have kept your mind too long fixed on a story filled with such complicated horrors; but I hope you will lay the blame on Perseus, on Philip, on history, in short, on any thing, but your most tenderly affectionate, and dutiful daughter,

MARIA MILTON.

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L E T T E R XL.

From Mrs. Milton to her Daughter.

My dear Maria,

I F E E L myself much inclined to congratulate you on the admission of Miss Wilkins into your school, though you do not appear charmed with that addition to your society; but we may sometimes as usefully learn from example, what we ought to avoid, as what to imitate; and none are so likely to hit on the true medium, as those who enjoy the advantages of both. A conduct that we approve we first endeavour to equal, and then to excel; an ambition, in many respects, laudable; but if vanity has its share in our motive, as is but too common, we may be led by it into a wrong, or at least an absurd extreme; those who have already fallen into it, are, therefore, our best barriers, they preserve us from the precipice, and keep us from wandering out of the safe path. An ardent desire of improvement sometimes leads people into conceit and pedantry, from which nothing can so effectually guard them, as such an example of its absurdity as Miss

4 Wilkins,

Wilkins; especially, when it gives rise to Mrs. Wheatley's useful admonitions. Her advice would not come with half the power, uncorroborated by such an instance at hand, of the truth of what she urges. We are more apt to suffer than to improve by the follies and vices of others, because we make a wrong use of them. They are too often only the subject of our ridicule, and while we are exhibiting their absurdities, we shew our own ill-nature, and thus expose ourselves more than we do them; beside teaching our minds a malevolent turn, encouraging our own pride, and getting an habit of despising those we ought to pity. We should receive great benefit from the faults of others, would we consider them as warnings to avoid the like in ourselves. Every thing of that kind should put us on our guard, and summon us to keep a double watch over our own words and actions, to examine them with a jealous eye, and diligently eradicate every thing that bears the most distant resemblance to what we disapprove in our neighbour. Mankind, as it were, hold up the glass to each other, but few of us will look in it, because it does not shew the agreeable side of the object; we seldom compare ourselves with others, except to find out some dissimilitude; from the resemblance we turn our eyes,

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eyes, or view only as a sanction for our faults ; and consoling ourselves with a pretence to humility, declare we do not desire to be better than other people, as if our worth were to be determined by the weighing of our merits against those of others. Alas ! it is not from being weighed in such a ballance, that we shall be found wanting ; a far different pattern is proposed to our imitation, and as by that we shall be tried, by that alone we should examine ourselves. We cannot too much avoid drawing comparisons, which, from self-partiality, generally turn either to the increase of our vanity, or excite envy in our minds. There is nothing on which we are so disqualified to judge well ; prejudices of various kinds warp our reason ; we are all ignorance on both sides of the question, we neither know our own hearts, nor those of others ; how then should we draw any just conclusions ? Every one of whom we hear or read, or with whom we are acquainted, must be the subjects of our observation, we must internally approve or disapprove them, but we should no farther mix ourselves with them in our reflections, than to determine to use our best endeavours to imitate their virtues, and avoid their faults, at the same time that we apply our care to correct those more peculiarly natural to ourselves. We
have

have so many of our own proper growth, that if we can keep clear of all those we perceive in other persons, yet we shall still have a long and humiliating catalogue to revise, the correction of which will, to the most vigilant, furnish business for a long life, and yet remain so far from being totally conquered, that dreadful would be our situation, if our merciful judge had not assured us, that a steady, sincere, and earnest endeavour to conquer them should be accepted as a victory really obtained, and gain from his indulgence—the reward of merits not our own. He who has paid the price, offers us the blessings of the purchased inheritance. How great our debt of love and gratitude ! But the subject is too sublime for my pen ; I should debase it ; yet after having led your thoughts to such a height, how descend to trifling topics ! I will, therefore, forbear every other, except that which is more important to me, than any other worldly concern ; and which, I know, however unequal to the former subject, will give you pleasure, as you have long wished a share in your grandfather's affections, for though I cannot yet assure you of having obtained the portion you deserve, I can, with pleasure, tell you, that he seems much more disposed in your favour than he used to be, and I think I see
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that every day increases your interest in him, which you may believe diffuses a joy, long unknown, into the heart of your most tenderly affectionate mother,

FRANCES MILTON.

L E T T E R X L I .

Miss Milton to her Mother.

A THOUSAND thanks, my dear Mamma, for the most joyful assurance you give me of my grandfather's growing favour. How charmed am I to hear, that he seems well disposed towards me! If his prejudices are so far subsided, I cannot doubt but nature will exert itself, and, in time, awaken in him the sensations so natural to the heart of a parent. My imagination has represented him kindly affectionate; and, in this last stage of his life, favourably receiving the dutiful attentions of his grand-daughter. The same kind, though sometimes delusive power, has anticipated the inexpressible joy of being again infolded in the arms of the tenderest of mothers, and restored to her society; blessed with the full enjoyment of innocence and tranquility; passing my happy hours in pleasures that the heart feels, and
reason,

reason must approve ; a conversation that, while it delights, will improve me, yield present, and contribute to future happiness. I am certain I shall never sigh after gay amusements; pleasures, that play round the head, but come not near the heart, may be received with complacence when they present themselves, but cannot be much desired by one, who enjoys every rational satisfaction at home; who, in the careful and the tender mother, finds the indulgent friend, who will lay aside the gravity of maturer years, to join in the harmless mirth into which youthful spirits lead her daughter; takes pleasure in the vivacity that might be arraigned at the stern bar of aged wisdom, and listens to the play of her lively fancy, with the same indulgence as she formerly beheld her childish sports. Ever since I received your letter, my imagination has so kindly restored me to the happiness, from which I was torn when sent from you, that were I to be disappointed of my hope, it would be like a second parting scene. I ought not, perhaps, in prudence, thus far to have given way to fancy, but she flies so fast, it is difficult to overtake and stop her, especially when there is so much pleasure in following through all the flowery paths she traverses; and I flatter myself, that even reason tells me,

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me, when natural affection begins to melt the parent's heart, it will not suspend its operation till it has perfected its work. Mrs. Wheatley and Miss Lenthall encourage me in this hope, and rejoice in my brightening prospect, though they tell me they shall much regret the loss of me, and it would be unjust to doubt their sincerity: But no change of situation can prevent my remembering them with love and gratitude, nor, I hope, deprive me of the power of sometimes enjoying their beloved society.

I will endeavour, my dear Mamma, to turn the faults, as well as the virtues of others, to my own improvement, in the manner you recommend, which is certainly acting judiciously; it is like the bee, extracting honey out of even poisonous herbs, as well as out of the sweetest flowers; or to speak better, and more literally, it is bringing good out of evil, the most desirable art the human mind can possess; it is a kind of divine chemistry. I am not sure you do not disapprove my diverting myself with Miss Wilkins's absurdities, and I cannot feel satisfied in any action that I think you will censure; yet it was with the greatest difficulty I preserved any tolerable composure of countenance this morning at breakfast, when Miss Wilkins, on one of the young ladies declining to have any
cream

in her tea, told her, *she was injudicious, as it made the tea more salubrious, because the globular particles of the cream sheathed the acute angles of the tea, and by rendering them more obtuse, made it a less hurtful fluid.* You may suppose this elaborate sentence did not escape Mrs. Wheatley, who, with a manner as smooth as that same *globular particled cream*, shewed her how she might, in more familiar terms, have better conveyed the same advice; but, however smooth the medium, in which the reproof was administered, it did not sheath the acute angles of Miss Wilkins's temper, for some asperity appeared in her answer; but after a little altercation, Mrs. Wheatley's reason and gentleness prevailed; science lowered its crest, and Miss Wilkins's good humour returned. She really well deserves the trouble Mrs. Wheatley takes, to correct this error in her, for she has very good qualities, and when out of her altitudes is agreeable; but those, which she esteems groveling moments, are but few, she soon soars again, and will not allow one time to be thoroughly pleased with her conversation. Her disposition is not unamiable, though she lives at present in a state of mortification, which must prevent its appearing to advantage.

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To change the subject to the historical catechism, is like going from one lesson to another, therefore is no unnatural transition. That I quit is, I believe, the more useful; as to learn how to avoid, in common life, what we should not do, is of more importance than to know what has been done by others; and, more especially, by those who have moved far above our sphere; but my plan requires, that I now turn to my catechism.

HISTORICAL CATECHISM.

LESSON LXVII.

Q. Were Perseus's terrors well founded?

A. Though the dangers that threatened him might justly excite apprehensions, yet his fears served only to increase his danger. However, nothing decisive passed between him and the Romans, till the beginning of the fifth year of the war, when Paulus Emilius, then chosen consul, was appointed-commander of the army in Macedonia. He entirely defeated Perseus, and pursued him till he sought refuge in a temple in Lamothracia, where the Roman fleet, in a manner besieging the island, reduced him to surrender himself, his wife, and children,

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to the clemency of the consul and senate. Another Roman army, had just before vanquished Gentius, King of Illyria, and sent him and his family prisoners to Rome.

Q. What treatment did Perseus receive from his conquerors?

A. Paulus Emilius used him with complaisance and lenity, but at his return to Rome, caused him and his children to make part of the triumph decreed him, for the signal service he had done the commonwealth; the pride of a Roman feeling no small gratification, in leading a captive monarch at his chariot wheels, imagining he thereby increased his glory, by what a more generous mind would have considered as a barbarous insult on misfortune; though if ever it could be seen without pain, it must have been on this occasion; Perseus's extreme cruelty having excited general detestation, and his folly as general contempt. Even after the loss of the last fatal battle, he killed with his own hand, such of his friends, as had sufficient regard for him, to give their advice with sincerity, on the melancholy situation of his affairs.

Q. Did Perseus live any great length of time after he came to Rome?

A. No: he died, as is imagined, voluntarily, refusing to take any food.

Q. In

Q. In what year was Perseus taken prisoner?

A. In the year 168 before Christ.

Q. How did the Romans treat the Macedonians after having finished the conquest of their country?

A. They declared the Macedonians free: ordering, that the people should chuse a public council or senate for the administration of government—that they should pay to the Romans, a tribute of half the sum they paid to the King—and that the country should be divided into four cantons; no one being allowed to marry or purchase lands or houses out of their own canton. Such of the Macedonians, as by their riches or power might be induced to attempt to overturn this new-established government, were required to remove to Rome. The same sort of establishment was made in Illyria.

Q. Were any of the Grecian states involved in the ruin of Perseus?

A. Some of them suffered severely from the favourable disposition they had appeared to entertain towards him. The Rhodians were deprived of part of their territories; great numbers of the Ætolians were put to death; a very bloody inquisition was made in every state of such as had favoured Perseus; and the Achæans were command-

ed to send a thousand of their principal citizens to Rome, where they received a sentence of banishment, nor could they obtain permission to return to their native country, till seventeen years after, when but three hundred of the number remained. The worthiest men in each state suffered in this inquisition; for as the Partizans of Rome became the most powerful faction on this new success of the Roman arms, they, in their accusations, confounded those who had opposed their measures from truly patriotic views, with the favourers of Perseus.

Q. Had Eumenes assisted the Romans in the war with Perseus?

A. He had sent them a body of troops under the command of his brother Attalus, but was, notwithstanding such fair appearances, suspected of favouring the cause of Perseus, which greatly lessened the good understanding so long subsisting between that monarch and Rome; but it did not occasion any open rupture, and that King died in possession of the kingdom, which he had, by his wisdom and valour, so great-increased, and by his noble and excellent qualities, rendered illustrious, in the year before Christ 159, and after a reign of thirty-eight years. He was succeeded by an infant son, named Attalus; to whom Eumenes

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menes appointed his brother Attalus as guardian, and regent of the kingdom; and a war, which Prusias, King of Bythynia, soon after the death of Eumenes, made on Pergamus, evinced, that a minor was not a fit Prince for that nation; but by the authority of the Romans, Attalus put a successful conclusion to it.

Q. What became of Prusias after this?

A. He sent his son Nicomedes to Rome, commissioned to solicit a remission of the fine, which they had commanded him to pay to Attalus; at the same time giving orders to one of the young prince's attendants, to take a favourable opportunity, during his absence from Bithynia, for putting him to death, Prusias being desirous to advance the children he had by a second marriage; but the intended assassin acquainted Nicodemus with the task that was assigned him, who took refuge with Attalus; by his assistance soon gained over all the Bithynians, and caused his father to be murdered; thus preventing his father's crime, by committing a more atrocious one himself.

Q. In what year did Prusias die?

A. 149 Years before Christ, after a reign of 36 years.

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Q. Did

Q. Did Macedonia continue satisfied with the government the Romans had therein established?

A. They appear to have done so; for about fifteen years after the defeat of Perseus, a man of obscure birth, named Andriscus, of Adramytta, a city of Troas in Asia Minor, assumed the name of Philip, and pretending to be natural son to Perseus, endeavoured to prevail with the Macedonians, to rise in his favour; but finding himself disappointed herein, he retired to the court of Demetrius Soter, King of Syria, whose sister had been married to Perseus, but Demetrius discovering the fraud, seized, and sent him to Rome.

Q. In what manner was he treated there?

A. He was little regarded, being thought too mean to be dangerous; but having made his escape, he fled into Thrace, and levied there a considerable army, and got possession of Macedonia, and part of Thessaly. He defeated the Romans once entirely, and gave them a severe check a second time, but was afterwards routed by them in two battles; and having taken refuge at the court of a petty Thracian King, he was by him betrayed into the hands of the Romans.

Q. Was

Q. Was Macedonia at peace after the taking of Andrisus?

A. Another impostor, who also called himself the son of Perseus, afterwards arose, but he gave less trouble to the Romans; who then, either to secure that country, or to punish it for shewing some inclination towards these impostors, reduced it into a Province dependant on Rome.

HISTORICAL CATECHISM.

LESSON LXVIII.

Q. Was Greece more fortunate than Macedonia?

A. It soon after shared the same fate: A quarrel arising between the Achæans and Spartans, the Romans sent commissioners to adjust their differences, with such orders as must effectually weaken the Achæan republic, to a degree, that would ever after prevent its being a formidable enemy. The Achæans extremely exasperated at this treatment, insulted the commissioners, and Corinth in particular shewed an ill-judged, as well as unjust resentment, by an inexcusable conduct towards the commissioners; and the Achæans, in defiance of

the Romans, commenced hostilities against Lacedemon.

Q. How did the Romans act on that occasion?

A. The army, which had subjected Macedonia, now marched against the Achæans, and defeated them near the town of Scarphoa in Locris, reduced several cities, and proceeding to Corinth, laid siege to it.

Q. With what success?

A. The Grecians, who were guided by rash and factious men, without either prudence or true valour, gave the Romans battle near the city, and received a total overthrow.

Q. What then was the fate of Corinth?

A. The citizens, now entirely hopeless of making any good defence, quitted it in the night, and the Romans entering it the next morning, plundered it of all its riches; its fine statues and pictures, they reserved to grace the victor's triumph, and then set fire to the buildings, which continued burning for several days; and the walls were afterwards razed to their very foundations. The other cities, that had joined in the revolt of the Achæans, were disarmed, and their walls demolished.

Q. Did the Achæans attempt, after this, to defend themselves?

A. No:

A. No: Overwhelmed with consternation and terror, they made no resistance. The Romans abolished the popular governments, appointed a chief magistrate in every state, and reduced Greece into a Roman Province.

Q. When did this great nation, which had so long made a principal figure in Europe, and given birth to many of the noblest of the human race, suffer so melancholy a reverse of fortune?

A. 146 Years before Christ.

Q. As Greece will no longer engage our attention, we may, with the less reluctance, look back to Syria and Egypt, though the confused and turbulent state of those kingdoms, will not afford us any great satisfaction. What passed in Syria on the death of Antiochus Epiphanes?

A. That Prince, just before his death, appointed Philip, his favourite, to the regency of the kingdom, during the minority of his son Antiochus Eupator; but Philip's absence gave Lysias, the young Prince's governor, means of seizing both the guardianship and the regency.

Q. Did the death of Epiphanes make any great change in the affairs of the Jews?

A. No: Lysias prosecuted the war with vigour. Having received a considerable overthrow from Judas Maccabeus, he

agreed to a peace, but it was soon broken, and each side again took the field. Judas was still victorious, though very inferior in strength, but superior force at length prevailed; the Jews, oppressed by numbers, were obliged to retire into Bethsura, which, after a long siege, was surrendered, and Lysias laid siege to Jerusalem; but when it was reduced to such extremity, that it could not have holden out much longer, Lysias was informed, that Philip, his competitor for the regency, had entered Syria at the head of an army of Medes and Persians, and taken the city of Antioch. Alarmed at the loss of the capital of Syria, he granted the Jews peace on very honourable terms, and marched against Philip.

Q. With what success?

A. Philip was soon obliged to fly before him, and, in a very short time after, death delivered Lysias from his competitor.

Q. Was Lysias equally fortunate in succeeding occurrences?

A. His power and good fortune were of short continuance: Commissioners being sent by the Romans to examine into the state of Syria, they found Antiochus possessed of more ships and elephants than were allowed by the treaty between the Syrians and Romans, whereupon they burnt the former,

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ormer, and killed the latter; an action
hat so exasperated the people, that they
slew one of the commissioners.

Q. Did the Romans take vengeance for
this insult?

A. Before they had determined in what
manner to revenge it, Demetrius, the son
of Seleucus Philopator, elder brother to
Epiphanes, who was still an hostage at
Rome, not having been able to obtain per-
mission of the senate to return into Syria,
and claim the throne; to which he had the
best hereditary right, stole away secretly;
and having landed at Tripoli, a report soon
spread, that he was sent thither by the
Romans to take possession of the kingdom,
which was the more credible, as such of-
fence had been given them; and the Sy-
rians not daring to oppose the will of the
Romans, readily received him, delivering
the young King and the regent into his
hands.

Q. What treatment did they receive from
Demetrius?

A. He put them to death after they had
enjoyed the sovereign power only two years.

Q. Was the government of Egypt in a
more settled state?

A. By no means: The association of the
two brothers in the government occasioned
continual dissensions, which often arose to
very

very destructive wars. At length, Ptolomy Evergetes, or Physcon, expelled his elder brother, Ptolomy Philometor, from his kingdom.

Q. What course did Philometor take?

A. He went to Rome, where he obtained commissioners to return with him into Egypt, and restore him to his right. These commissioners divided the kingdom between the brothers, declaring each, in his separate district, independent of the other. Lybia and Cyrene were given to Physcon, Egypt and the Isle of Cyprus to Philometor.

Q. Did this partition compose their animosities?

A. It rather occasioned new ones: Physcon went to Rome to complain of the unequal division, and required, that Cyprus should be added to his share, wherein he was gratified by the Romans, whose political view was to lessen the power of Egypt.

GEOGRAPHICAL CATECHISM

LESSON XVII.

OF THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN.

Q. What is the situation of Spain ?

A. It lies between the 36° and the 44° of north latitude, and the 10° and 21° of east longitude.

Q. What are the boundaries of this kingdom ?

A. Spain, formerly called Iberia, is bounded on the east by the Mediterranean and France, from which it is separated by the Pyrenean Mountains ; on the north by the Bay of Biscay ; on the west by the western ocean and Portugal ; and on the south by the same sea and the Mediterranean.

Q. How is Spain divided ?

A. This kingdom consists of main land and islands ; the former is divided into fourteen Provinces, six to the north, five in the middle, and three to the south.

Q. Which are those to the north ?

Provinces

Provinces.	Chief Towns.
A. The kingdom of Galicia.	Sant-Jago de Compostella.
Asturias.	Finisterre and Lugo.
Biscay.	Oviedo and Santilana.
	Bilbao, Vitoria, Tolosa, and San Sebastian.
The kingdom of Navarre.	Pamplona and Estella.
The kingdom of Aragon.	Saragoza, Barbastro, and Seruel.
Catalonia.	Barcelona, Tarragona, and Tortosa.

Q. What are the Provinces in the middle division ?

	Chief Towns:
A. The kingdom of Leon.	Leon, Astorga, Palencia, Medina, Salamanca, and Ciudad Rodrigo.
The kingdom of old Castile.	Burgos, Valladolid, and Segovia.
Estremadura.	Badjoz, Plazencia, and Truxillo.
New Castile.	Madrid, the capital of all Spain, Toledo, and Guadalaxara.

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The kingdom of } { Valencia, Honda,
Valencia. } { Segorve, and A-
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Q. Which are the Provinces to the south?

Andaluzia. } { Chief Towns.
 } { Cadiz, Seville, Cor-
 } { dova, and Gib-
 } { raltar.

The kingdom of } { Ronda, Malaga, and
Granada. } { Almeria.

The kingdom of } { Murcia, Lorca, and
Murcia. } { Carthageria.

Q. What are the Spanish islands in the Mediterranean?

A. Majorca, Minorca, was once so, but is now in the possession of the English. Yvica and Formentera, the capital of the first bears the same name as the island; Citadella is the largest town in Minorca, there is in that island an excellent harbour called Mahon. The Metropolis of Yvica likewise bears the same name as the isle.

Q. What is the government of Spain?

A. The government is monarchical, and the crown hereditary. This country was formerly subject to the Moors, and afterwards, as its ancient inhabitants began to shake off their yoke, it comprehended fourteen different kingdoms, which were, in time, reduced to three, viz. Aragon, Castille,

tille, and Granada, the latter of which only remained to the Moors; the two former were united anno 1474, by the marriage of Ferdinand of Arragon, with Elizabeth, heiress of Castille. This King likewise subdued the kingdom of Granada, and afterwards the Moors were banished Spain; which, with the number of men sent to people part of the West-Indies, greatly impoverished the kingdom, and have rendered it much less powerful than before its territories were so extensive.

Q. What is the religion in Spain?

A. The religion is that of Rome, and all other professions are excluded by the tyranny of the inquisition, at first advised and set up by Gonzalez de Mendoza, Archbishop of Toledo.

Q. What is the air and soil of Spain?

A. The air is good, but from the month of May till August extremely hot. The soil is in many places dry and barren, and in others, where it is better, it is seldom cultivated; agriculture, and, indeed, all kinds of industry, having gone much to decay, since the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus, and the great possessions the Spaniards have acquired there; they may also have been rendered much more remiss by the various excellent fruits, which, with little art and labour, are produced

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duced in great quantities, whereby the want of corn and other grain is compensated.

OF ITALY.

Q. What is the situation, and what are the boundaries of Italy?

A. It lies, including Sicily, between the 37° and 46° of north latitude, and nearly between the 24th and 36th degrees of east longitude, including Savoy. It is bounded on the south and west by the Mediterranean, on the north by the Alps, and on the east by the Adriatic Sea.

Q. How is Italy divided?

A. The most usual division is into three parts, namely, Upper, Middle, and Lower.

Q. What does Upper Italy contain?

A. The Dutchy of Savoy.	}	Chief Towns.
The Principality of Piedmont.		Chambery.
The Dutchy of Montferat.	}	Turin and Nice.
The Dutchy of Milan.		Casal.
The Dutchy of Mantua.	}	Milan, Pavia and Cremona.
		Mantua.

The

	Chief Towns.
The Dutchies of Parma and Placentia.	Parma and Placentia.
The Dutchy of Guastalla.	Guastalla.
The Dutchy of Modena.	Modena and Mirandola.
Three independent Republics, namely, Venice.	Venice, Padua, Ravenna, Verona, Vicenza, Brescia, Bergamo, Crema, and Treviso.
Genoa.	Genoa, Savona, and Finale.
Lucca.	Lucca.

Q. What does the Middle part of Italy contain?

	Chief Towns.
A. The Grand Dutchy of Tuscany, and the states of the Church, or the Pope's Dominions.	Florence, St. Maria-Nuova, Pisa, Leghorn, and Siena.

Q. What are the Pope's dominions?

	Chief Towns.
A. They are Bologna.	Bologna.
Ferrara.	Ferrara.
Romagna.	Ravenna,
	Urbino,

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	Chief Towns.
Urbino.	Urbino.
Ancona.	Ancona and Loreto.
Castello.	Citta di Castello.
Perugia.	Perugia.
Orvieto.	Orvieto.
Spoletto.	Spoletto.
Castro and Ronciglione.	Castro and Ronciglione.
The Patrimony of St. Peter.	Viterbo and Civita Vecchia.
Campagna di Romana.	Rome, Albano, and Benevento.

Q. What is the Republic of St. Marino?

A. It is a small state protected by the Pope; the capital city is also called St. Marino.

Q. What does the Lower part of Italy comprehend?

A. Naples, part of the dominions of the King of the two Sicilies, wherein are the following districts:

	Chief Towns.
Lavora.	Naples, Capua,
	Gaeta, Salerno,
The farther and hither Calabria, Apulia, Terra d'Otranto.	Cosenza, Rhegio,
	Otranto, Taranto, Barri, and Manfredonia.
	Abruzzo.

Abruzzo.

} } Chief Towns.
} } Abruzzo, Aquilla,
} } Chieti.

Q. Describe the kingdom of Sicily ?

A. Sicily is an island at the foot of Italy, from which it is separated by the strait of Messina ; its principal cities are Messina, Siracuse, and Palermo, formerly called Panormus.

Q. What is the Government of Italy ;

A. As this country comprehends various little states, independent of each other, it contains great variety of governments, Parma, Modena, and Mantua, are under the sovereignty of their respective Dukes. The first is a fief of the holy See, the other two of the Empire. Tuscany and Naples, though they have peculiar sovereigns, are tributary to Spain. The state of the Church belongs to the Pope. There are, besides, four republics in Italy, viz. Venice, Genoa, Lucca, and St. Marino. The government of Venice is aristocratical ; the chief officer is the Doge, who is, in reality a slave ; with the empty title of a Prince, not being allowed the least power in the state, nor even the liberty of every private man. The Venetians do not allow the Pope's supremacy, nor esteem him much more than a temporal Prince. Their Priests, Monks, and Nuns lie under few restraints,

restraints, scarcely those of decency. The government of Genoa very much resembles that of Venice. Lucca is a small state under the protection of the Emperor of Germany; it is governed by a Magistrate called the Gonfalonier, who remains in office but two months. St. Marino consists of one mountain, about three miles long, in the dukedom of Urbino, which is governed by its own magistrates, and maintained its liberty 1000 years, but is now under the protection of the Pope.

Q. What is the religion in Italy?

A. The Italians are the most zealous professors of the Roman Catholic religion; the natural consequence of their vicinity to the Pope, and the terrors of the inquisition.

Q. What is the air and soil of Italy?

A. The air of this country is extremely pure and temperate, except the southward part, where the heats are excessive for some months in the summer. The fertility of the land is equal to the fineness of the climate. This country, from its natural properties, and the embellishments of art, is esteemed to excel all others. The ancient natives conquered the world by their valour; but the warlike disposition, with which they were once actuated, is now sunk into effeminacy, yet they still excel in the arts

arts of painting, statuary, architecture, and music. Jealousy and revenge are their strongest characteristics.

Since my grandfather has the goodness to permit me to present my duty to him, which, in every possible means, I am sure I shall always pay with joy and gratitude, I know you will say what is proper for me on the occasion, and be assured, no expressions you can use will ever be disavowed by the heart, or conduct, of, my dearest mamma, your most affectionate and dutiful daughter,

MARIA MILTON.

LETTER XLII.

My dear Mamma,

I WILL not let the post go without addressing you, though my letter will be very short, an uncommon practice with me; but which I am sure you will not only pardon but pity me for, when I tell you the occasion of it. Miss Lenthall was taken extremely ill this morning, and still continues so; and my time has been so entirely taken up with attending her, that I have but a few minutes left for the person who
has

has the greatest share of my heart, and to whom I would therefore wish to dedicate the largest portion of my time. This sudden seizure has very much alarmed us all; I think the sick person, in the midst of all her pains, bears the most composed mind of any one in the house. For my own part mine is so far otherwise, that had I leisure to write, I could not make use of it, for the agitation of my spirits would not suffer me to fix my thoughts on any other subject than my sick friend; and that would be a melancholy one, therefore better avoided. The Historical Catechism for the last two days will, however, give a better appearance to my packet, than if it contained only this scrap; and I can never have more reason to send it than when I can send nothing for myself, therefore it shall attend you as usual.

HISTORICAL CATECHISM.

LESSON LXIX.

Q. Did Philometor acquiesce in the decree of the Roman Senate, whereby he was ordered to deliver up the Isle of Cyprus to his brother?

A. On

A. On the contrary he declared himself determined to adhere to the first division. The people of Cyrene, too well acquainted with the cruelty and brutal vices of Physcon to approve of such a master, revolted, and were so successful, that as his only resource, he again applied to the Romans; and though he at last got possession of Cyrene, it only served to increase the hatred of that people, who fell upon him, and wounded him in such a manner, that he was left for dead on the spot.

Q. Was he in reality killed?

A. No: his wounds proved not mortal; and as soon as he recovered he went to Rome, where he accused his brother of the assassination; and though the well known equity and humanity of Philometor should have been considered as a sufficient defence, yet the Senate believed, or pretended to believe him guilty, and sent commissioners back with Physcon, at the head of a good army, to put him in possession of Cyprus.

Q. Did they execute their commission?

A. Physcon was defeated, and afterwards taken by Philometor, who made no other use of his success than to give an evident proof of the generosity of his nature, for he restored to his captive brother Lybia, and Cyrene, and made him, beside, some com-

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compensation for Cyprus, and thus the peace of Egypt was secured for a time.

Q. In what manner did Demetrius Soter acquit himself in his new acquired kingdom of Syria?

A. In the beginning of his reign he made war on the Jews. His troops were twice defeated by them under the command of Judas Maccabeus, but in a third engagement that general, overpowered by numbers, for he had but a handful of men, was slain.

Q. Did Demetrius take advantage of his death?

A. No: the Jews applied to the Romans for their friendship; who receiving them into their alliance, forbade Demetrius to continue molesting them, an order he dared not disobey, as he wished to be acknowledged King of Syria by the Senate, wherein he succeeded. Demetrius soon after placed Holophernes on the throne of Capadocia; but he was in a short time deposed, and took refuge at Antioch.

Q. Did Demetrius distinguish himself after this?

A. In nothing but his vices: he gave himself up to indolence and drunkenness, which encouraged Holophernes to aim at depriving him of his crown, and he entered

ed into a conspiracy for that purpose ; but it was frustrated by a discovery.

Q. Was Holophernes the most dangerous enemy Demetrius had to contend with ?

A. By no means : the Kings of Egypt, Pergamus and Capadocia, were secretly leagued against him ; and the Romans likewise bore him much ill will. These powers countenanced a young man of mean extraction, named Bola, who pretended himself the son of Antiochus Epiphanes, and had, by a disgraced Minister of that Prince's, been bred up for that purpose ; he assumed the name of Alexander, was acknowledged by the three Kings above-mentioned, and obtained from the Roman Senate a decree, permitting him to return into Syria for the recovery of his kingdom ; and also some assistance in his enterprize.

Q. What was the event ?

A. Demetrius, roused by so formidable an enemy from his licentious pleasures, took the field, and defeated Alexander ; but his powerful allies supplied him with fresh forces ; and at length he obtained a victory, wherein Demetrius was slain, and Alexander ascended the Syrian throne ; his predecessor having, during the course of the war, sent his two sons to Cnidos, a city in Caria, that at all events they might be secure.

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Q. Did Alexander shew himself worthy of the crown he had obtained?

A. As soon as he was seated on the throne he espoused Cleopatra, the daughter of Ptolemy Philometor, an alliance which might be useful towards supporting him against any competitors; but in the rest of his conduct he shewed little consideration of the dangers, to which a King is exposed, who has so weak a title to the crown he wears. He abandoned himself to luxury and indolence, leaving the government in the hands of a cruel and insolent Minister, who thought safety was to be purchased by crimes, and with that view caused Laodice, the sister of Demetrius Soter, and widow to Perseus, Antigonus, Demetrius's youngest son, who had not been sent with his brothers to Cnidos, and, in fine, all the persons he could find of the blood royal, to be murdered.

Q. What was the consequence of such barbarity?

A. It excited horror and aversion in the people, which encouraged Demetrius, the eldest son of Demetrius Soter, who was then at Antioch, to attempt the recovery of his kingdom. He led a body of Cretans into Cilicia, where he was soon joined by a great number of mal-contents, and whole provinces declared in his favour.

Q. What course did Alexander take in so dangerous a juncture ?

A. He solicited aid from Ptolemy Philometor his father-in-law, who accordingly led a great army to his assistance ; but having discovered a conspiracy against his life, formed by Alexander's first Minister, and that Prince refusing to deliver up the traitor, Philometor believed he was himself guilty of that black treachery, whereupon he took from him his daughter Cleopatra, gave her in marriage to Demetrius, and engaged to establish him in that kingdom.

Q. Was Philometor successful in this enterprize ?

A. The city of Antioch opened its gates to him, and offered him the crown of Syria, but Philometor assuring them he was free from all such ambitious views, recommended to them Demetrius their lawful Prince. He then gave battle to Alexander and defeated him.

Q. What became of that usurper ?

A. He fled with five hundred horse to Zabdiel, an Arabian Prince, who caused his head to be cut off, and sent it to Philometor. But the triumph of that Prince was short : he died a few days after of a wound received in the battle, having sat on the Egyptian throne thirty-five years ;
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a Prince deserving of a happier reign; which, notwithstanding the gentleness and humanity of his disposition, tempered as appears with a proper degree of courage, had been continually disturbed with family dissentions, and civil wars. Demetrius, by the death of Alexander, came to the quiet possession of the Syrian throne, and assumed the surname of Nicator.

Q. When did he come to the crown?

A. 130 Years before the Christian æra.

Q. Who then reigned in Egypt?

A. Ptolemy Physcon had then sat sixteen years on the Egyptian throne.

HISTORICAL CATECHISM.

LESSON LXX.

Q. Who succeeded Philometor in his share of Egypt?

A. Cleopatra, his widow, endeavoured to place the crown on the head of her infant son, but Physcon preparing to seize it, under the sanction of the Romans, it was agreed that he should marry Cleopatra, and her son be declared heir to the crown; but Physcon killed her son even in her arms on the day of their marriage.

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Q. In what manner did Demetrius conduct himself in his newly acquired kingdom?

A. Inexperienced, and voluptuous, he was entirely governed by Lathenes his first Minister, a rash and cruel man; who offended the Egyptians, by causing those who had raised his master to the throne to be treacherously murdered, and by his intolerable tyranny, increased the hatred which Demetrius's vices might alone have excited. So great a sedition arose in Antioch, that the King must have perished by the hands of his subjects, had he not been rescued, and even revenged on the rebels by the Jews, to whom he had applied for assistance.

Q. Were the citizens of Antioch the only part of his subjects that rebelled?

A. The rebellion soon became general: Diodotus, surnamed Tryphon, who had been one of the Ministers of Alexander, carried Antiochus, that usurper's son, into Syria, (from the court of Zabdiel, the Arabian Prince, who had betrayed his father) where he was joyfully received by the enraged subjects of Demetrius, and placed on the throne, Demetrius being obliged to retire to Seleucia.

Q. Did Antiochus maintain himself in the kingdom of Syria?

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A. Tryphon had, from the first, designed only his own exaltation; therefore as soon as he found his pageant Prince, to whom he had given the surname of Theos, in full possession of the kingdom, he secretly put him to death, and giving out that he died of a natural disease, proclaimed himself King.

Q. Was Demetrius inactive all this time?

A. Hitherto he had been immersed in dissipation and vice in the city of Laodicea; but he was at length roused by an invitation from the Medes, Persians, and other Eastern nations, for they, disgusted with the Parthians, who had conquered, and now tyrannized over them, offered to receive Demetrius for their King. He accordingly put himself at the head of their forces, and gained several victories over the Parthians, but was at length taken prisoner by them, at a place where they had appointed to meet him, under pretence of coming to a treaty.

Q. In what manner was Demetrius used by the Parthians?

A. Mithridates, King of Parthia, who took him prisoner, entertained him as a King, gave him his daughter Rhodoguna in marriage, and sent him into Hyrcania,

the place assigned for his residence, but yet did not leave him intirely at liberty.

Q. What passed in Syria during his captivity?

A. Cleopatra, his Queen, not thinking herself sufficiently powerful to contend with Tryphon, offered herself, and the crown of Syria to Antiochus Sidetes, younger brother to Demetrius, who accordingly married her, subdued Tryphon, and having taken him prisoner put him to death.

Q. Did Antiochus then remain sole King of Syria?

A. He did: his good conduct on the throne having discouraged any one from attempting to succeed Tryphon. He made a successful war with the Jews, which was concluded by a strict alliance, and a considerable number accompanied him in an expedition into Parthia, whereby he hoped to prevent the designs he found the Parthians had against Syria.

Q. What success had Antiochus in Parthia?

A. He gained several victories over the Parthians, but having dispersed his troops among various towns, for the convenience of winter quarters, the insolence of his soldiers gave such offence, that most of them were massacred, and Antiochus perished in his endeavours to defend them.

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Q. Where was Demetrius then ?

A. On his road to Syria: Before this war broke out, he had twice attempted to make his escape, but had been overtaken and brought back. When Phroates, then King of Parthia, found himself much embarrassed by Antiochus's success, he gave Demetrius permission to return into Syria, in hopes his presence would excite disturbances there; and though on the news he received of the death of Antiochus, he endeavoured to have his late captive overtaken, yet he had used such speed, that he arrived safe in his kingdom; and again received his former wife Cleopatra, and now the widow of his brother, as his Queen.

Q. Was Demetrius amended by his misfortunes ?

A. They had made no alteration in him, and he became more than ever the object of his people's hatred, as evidently appeared in the war he undertook against Egypt.

Q. What induced him to enter into that war ?

A. Physcon, whose brutal cruelty rather increased than abated, had repudiated his wife Cleopatra, the widow of Philometor, and espoused a niece and daughter-in-law of the same name, daughter to Philometor, by the very Cleopatra he put away.

The citizens of Alexandria, whom Physcon had exasperated by his horrible cruelty, received the repudiated Princess. Physcon causelessly jealous of his eldest son, put him to death; and soon after ordered a very beautiful youth, his son by his first Cleopatra, to be slain, cut to pieces, and put into a chest, which he sent her on her birth day as a present. The horror of this act incited the Alexandrians to an open rebellion, but being defeated by Physcon, Cleopatra solicited the aid of Demetrius, her son-in-law, promising him the crown of Egypt.

Q. Did Demetrius accept the invitation?

A. Very readily; but a rebellion of his own subjects obliged him to return directly into Syria; and to detain him there, Physcon set up one Alexander Zebina, who pretended himself the son of Alexander Bola, and claimed the crown of Syria under that title.

Q. With what success?

A. He defeated Demetrius, who, deserted by his subjects, fled to Ptolemais, of which his wife, Cleopatra, was in possession, but she shut the gates against him, and he was afterwards slain in his flight. This horrible woman, however, retained part of the kingdom, and Zebina got possession of the rest.

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Q. Did Demetrius leave no son ?

A. Yes : he left two sons by Cleopatra, Seleucus, the eldest, caused himself to be proclaimed King, and bore that title for a year ; when his mother, fearing he would assume more power than suited her ambition, stabbed him with her own hand. To her second son, Antiochus, surnamed Grypus, she gave the same title, expecting to find him more tractable, and apprehending the Syrians would not bear to be confessedly under the rule of a woman.

Athough my dear mamma has had so little share in my time this day, yet I hope she is well assured, that she possesses at all seasons, the tenderest affections of her most

Dutiful and grateful daughter,

MARIA MILTON.

L E T T E R XLIII.

My dear Mamma,

THE night after I finished my last letter, Miss Lenthall appeared in a high fever, but the next day was a good deal relieved by the breaking out of an eruption. It still continues, and, perhaps, to that may
be

be owing the clearness of her intellects; which do not seem at all affected. She has three blisters on, a severe, though thought a necessary, remedy, and must be a great addition to her pains, but she makes no complaint; she is all patience under her present suffering, and resignation as to the event; grateful for the happiness she has enjoyed in this world, yet willing to quit it, should that be the will of him in whose hands are life and death. Strengthened by humble hope, she looks forward with complacency, her conscience is clear of any great offence, and her reliance on divine mercy is strong and perfect, though free from delusions of presumption. She has long taught one how to live, and may now teach one how to die; but to die the death of the righteous, one must live her life, then may one's last end safely be like her's. I flatter myself, however, that this is not the last scene of so useful a life; I fear that I could not resign myself to that event, so properly as she does to the prospect of it; and though she would certainly be a gainer, yet it would be a great loss to numbers. She is a noble example to persons of all ranks, and the poor are greatly interested in her life. She has, indeed, taken care, in the disposition of her effects, that those, who are now benefited by her, shall

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shall suffer as little as possible ; but every month would add objects for her charity ; and should she live, many now unborn would feel the influence of her benevolence. The physician, who attends her, has great hopes of her recovery : her youth and the composure of her spirits, he says, give him reason to believe she will struggle through this severe illness.

He says, her fever being eruptive, is infectious, and Mrs. Wheatleys have most earnestly importuned me to forbear my attendance on her, but I hope I shall stand excused, as this is the first time I have been disobedient to, even what I could suppose was a wish of theirs. I could not excuse to my own heart that care of myself, which led me to neglect the duties of friendship and humanity ; and surely that cannot be done more essentially, than by forsaking a friend when our care and tenderness is most requisite, and when every kind attention seems to alleviate her pain, and gives some gleams of pleasure to her comfortless state. This also is the only consolation we can receive under the sufferings of a friend ; the delightful offices of tender care mitigate the anxieties of our own minds, which, deprived of opportunities of thus exerting our affections, would be insupportable. Beside, is she not teaching me a lesson we ought

ought all to learn to perform well, since we shall certainly all be called upon to perform it. Long life may be an evil; to die well must be a blessing. Mrs. Wheatleys have, indeed, urged the most powerful argument, the pain I may give you should I be infected; but I think I know you too well, to believe you would wish me to forsake a friend to avoid a danger to myself; your practice has often justified what I am doing; should your opinion now contradict it, believe, my dear mamma, that it is only the too partial impulses of your heart, that lead you to disapprove in me what you think right in yourself; but pardon me a supposition that injures you, even maternal tenderness cannot bias your rectitude, your humanity. For my own part, were my life at stake, I think I could not justify such inordinate care of it; for surely that care is inordinate, which leads us to neglect any duty, from the apprehension of possible evils that may attend the performance of it, when our reason must tell us, that the actions of our life are of far more real consequence than the length of it. Miss Lenthall would, indeed, be well attended without my assistance; for Mrs. Wheatleys are entirely void of that care for themselves, which they would so kindly take of me, and by their practice overthrow their arguments,

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ments ; but their attention to the other young ladies, none of whom are permitted to come near her room, deprives them of an absolute command over their time, and the affection Miss Lenthall so kindly entertains for me, makes her feel a pleasure in my being near her, and would render my absence painful. How cruel would it be, to make that regard, which now constitutes so great a part of my happiness, the source of uneasiness to her ! It would be intolerable ingratitude. A seeming neglect in a friend would be an insupportable addition to the pains of sickness, and yet neglectful, in the strongest degree, must my absenting myself appear, except she were acquainted with the reason ; and in doing that one should distress her extremely, for her humanity is so tender, she would be miserable to think any one ran the hazard of severe sickness, perhaps of life, by attending her ; even the necessary care of mercenary attendants would scarcely be suffered by her on those terms ; her anxiety for them would dangerously agitate her mind, and possibly baffle all our hopes of her recovery. Happily she has no suspicion of the infectiousness of her disorder.

I fear I have too long dwelt on this subject, but my mind would admit of no other, and a sweet sleep she has now enjoyed for

an hour, a much longer term than she has yet slept since her sickness, afforded me more leisure than I should otherwise have had; and when I have the power of writing to my dear mamma, I know not how to leave off, though I have nothing to say that might not better be suppressed; but this is no new fault, affection first inclined you, and habit must, by this time, have taught you to overlook it. To apologize or ask pardon for it would now be somewhat too late, as it has already been so continually committed; and at the same time somewhat too soon, as I shall certainly repeat it frequently, except by a period's being put to our separation, I should have the means of wearying you with my impertinence, without the assistance of a grey goose quill. A pleasing thought, with which I will conclude my letter at present, as it offers a subject to reflect on, which intices me to indulge my imagination.

HISTORICAL CATECHISM.

LESSON LXXI.

Q. Did Zebina long enjoy his conquests?

A. No:

A. No : Physcon, who first exalted him to the throne, required him to do homage for his kingdom, which this usurper, whose mind was more noble than his birth, having refused, Physcon entered into a league with Cleopatra his niece, gave his daughter Tryphena in marriage to Antiochus Grypus, and assisted him so effectually, that he defeated Zebina's forces, and he was some time after taken and put to death, five years after an exaltation, of which he was more worthy than most of the hereditary monarchs of that time, being of a nature generous and humane. During these troubles the Jews made themselves independent of the kingdom of Syria.

Q. Was Antiochus Grypus as passive as his mother had expected ?

A. For some time : but at length growing weary of subjection, he resolved to assume the reins of government, a resolution so offensive to Cleopatra, that she poisoned a draught, with which she presented him one day, when he returned home hot and dry ; but being informed of the composition, obliged her to drink it herself, and she soon after expired.

Q. When did Ptolemy Physcon die ?

A. Despised and detested by all mankind, he died in the year 116 before the Christian æra.

Q. Did

Q. Did he leave any sons ?

A. We have seen that he had murdered those he had by his first wife, but left two by the second Cleopatra, Ptolemy Lathyrus, and Alexander ; but he bequeathed Egypt to his widow, and which, either of the sons she should chuse. The youngest best suited her ambition, and she had prevailed with Physcon to banish Lathyrus to Cyprus ; but the people obliged her to admit him to the throne, which yet she would not do, till she had forced him to repudiate Cleopatra, whom he much loved, and to marry her younger sister Selena.

Q. What became of the repudiated Cleopatra ?

A. She married Antiochus of Cyzicum, the son of Antiochus Sidetes, by the Cleopatra, Queen of Syria, of whose death by poison we have lately made mention. This Antiochus of Cyzicum, born during Demetrius's captivity, finding Grypus harboured designs against his life, rebelled, and laid claim to the crown of Syria ; but in the first battle fought between the brothers, Antiochus was defeated, and Tryphena, the wife of Grypus, contrary to his commands, caused Cleopatra, though her sister, to be murdered in a temple in Antioch, where she had taken refuge. But Antiochus afterwards gaining a victory over Grypus,

Grypus, revenged the death of his wife by that of Tryphena. The two brothers at length divided the kingdom of Syria between them.

Q. Did Egypt enjoy the benefits of peace at this time?

A. These two kingdoms had, for several years, exhibited a series of the most abominable crimes, and continued to do so for some time longer. Cleopatra, the Dowager Queen of Egypt, had given Cyprus to her son Alexander, but disgusted with Lathyrus, who endeavoured to obtain some share of regal power, she expelled him the kingdom, obliged him to content himself with Cyprus, and raised Alexander to the throne of Egypt. She likewise took from Lathyrus Selena, the wife she had given him.

Q. Did the two Kings of Syria observe the peace they had made?

A. They did: but Grypus being assassinated by one of his vassals, Antiochus endeavoured to deprive his sons of the succession, but he was by the eldest overcome and put to death.

Q. How many sons did Grypus leave?

A. Six: Seleucus, Antiochus, Philip, Demetrius, Enchases, and Antiochus Dionyrus. Antiochus of Cyzicum left one named Eusebes, who married Selena, the widow

widow of Grypus; these Princes contend-
ed for the crown of Syria, till the Syrians
determined to expel a race that had brought
such evils upon them, and gave the king-
dom to Tigranes, King of Armenia, who
possessed it eighteen years. But Selena re-
tained Ptolemais, with part of Phœnicia
and Cœlosyria, wherein she was succeeded
by her son Antiochus Asiaticus, whom she
had borne to Antiochus Eusebes.

Q. Did Tigranes reign in Syria till his
death?

A. No: having joined with Mithridates,
King of Pontus, in a war against the Ro-
mans, he was reduced by his ill success
therein to call his forces out of Syria, and
relinquish his possessions in that kingdom,
part of which Antiochus Eusebes seized,
and enjoyed for four years, when he was
dispossessed by Pompey, who made Syria
a Roman province. Antiochus was re-
duced to pass the rest of his life in a private
station, and with him ended the empire of
the Seleucides, after a duration of near two
hundred and fifty years.

Q. In what year was Syria converted into
a Roman Province?

A. Sixty-five years before the Christian
æra.

Q. Did Egypt enjoy a respite from its
scenes of horror?

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A. By no means: Alexander discovering, that Cleopatra, his mother, had formed a design of killing him, to save his own life put her to death. An action which excited so general a hatred against him, that he was driven out of the kingdom, and Lathyrus recalled; who enjoyed the throne till his death, when he was succeeded by Berenice Cleopatra, his only legitimate issue.

Q. Was her reign long?

A. Six months after she ascended the throne, Sylla, dictator of Rome, sent Alexander, son to Alexander her uncle, to demand the crown; and the people, to avoid giving offence to the Romans, obliged them to marry, but Alexander murdered her nineteen days after their nuptials.

Q. Did Alexander long enjoy his kingdom?

A. Fifteen years: when the Alexandrians, weary of his vices, expelled him the kingdom, and placed Ptolemy Auletes, the illegitimate son of Lathyrus, on the throne. Alexander, at his death, bequeathed all the states he had possessed to the Roman people, following therein the example of the last Kings of Pergamus, Bythinia, and Cyrene.

Q. Did the Romans claim the bequest made them by Alexander?

A. They

A. They took possession of the Island of Cyprus, but Ptolemy Auletes, by giving immense bribes to Cæsar and Pompey, got himself acknowledged King of Egypt; though, to raise so great a sum of money, he was obliged to charge his people with such heavy imposts, that they drove him out of the kingdom, and placed his daughter Berenice, the eldest of his children, on the throne. She married Seleucus, the younger brother of Antiochus Asiaticus, but despising him for his extreme covetousness, she caused him to be strangled, and afterwards espoused Archelaus, high priest of Comana in Pontus.

Q. What became of Ptolemy Auletes?

A. He fled to Rome to solicit succours, and again making use of bribery he prevailed on them to restore him to his kingdom; which he no sooner recovered, than he put his daughter Berenice to death. Her husband, Archelaus, had been slain in battle by the Romans.

Q. Did Ptolemy reign long after his restoration?

A. Only four years: and at his death, left the crown to his eldest son and daughter, the latter the famous Cleopatra, appointing the Romans to be their guardians, as they were then minors; and this charge was given by the Romans to Pompey.

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HISTORICAL CATECHISM.

LESSON LXXII.

Q. Did the will of Ptolemy Auletes take effect?

A. Only for a short time: for the Ministers of these young Princes excluded Cleopatra from the throne, who fled into Syria, in order to raise, there and in Palestine, an army, with which to defend her rights. At this time Pompey arrived in Egypt, having fled from the conquering arms of Cæsar, and was assassinated by the Egyptians, who feared either to give or refuse him the succours he solicited.

Q. Was Cleopatra successful in her endeavours to raise an army?

A. She was: but owed her restoration less to her military force than to her beauty. Cæsar pursued Pompey into Egypt, but on his arrival found him dead. He took upon him to reconcile the young King and Queen, and commanded them to have their cause pleaded before him. Cleopatra, conscious of her charms, appeared in person, and so effectually captivated him, that he entered warmly into her defence. The Egyptians would not submit

mit to his authority, and turned their arms against him; but after several less decisive engagements, he overthrew them in a pitched battle, and Ptolemy attempting to make his escape was drowned in the Nile. Cæsar then placed Cleopatra on the throne, associating with her a younger brother of hers, then but eleven years old. Cæsar's passion for Cleopatra detained him in Egypt some months after the war was concluded.

Q. Was the young King more fortunate than his brother?

A. He gave no umbrage to Cleopatra while his minority continued, but when he attained his fifteenth year, the age that permitted him to assume the reins of government, she caused him to be poisoned, and by that detestable action remained sole possessor of the throne.

Q. Did the Romans take any offence at this action of Cleopatra's?

A. They were too much engaged by the civil war, which succeeded the death of Cæsar, who had just then been killed in the Capitol, to pay any regard to what was transacted elsewhere. Cleopatra declared for the triumvirate, and attempted to carry a fleet to their assistance, but a storm shattered her ships, and obliged her to desist from her enterprize. After Anthony, one of the Triumviri, had gained the
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victory of Philippi, he went to Tarsus; and having received information that Cleopatra had assisted his enemies, he summoned her to appear before him.

Q. Did she obey his summons?

A. Very readily: as appears above she was intirely innocent of the charge, but she still depended more on her charms for her full justification. She was then five and twenty years old, in the highest perfection of her beauty, her person graceful to the greatest degree, her voice enchantingly harmonious, her learning great, her wit brilliant, and consummate in every art to captivate. She disdained the restraints of virtue, and even of decency, except such a proportion of it as was requisite to prevent disgust. Voluptuous and prodigal to excess, she was formed to corrupt the heart, as much as to captivate the senses. She went, therefore, to Tarsus, not as a supposed criminal, but armed to take captive the conqueror.

Q. Did she succeed?

A. Too well: Anthony became so absolute a slave to her charms, that for a long time even his ambition lay dormant, and near two years were passed in the most voluptuous feasts and entertainments, wherein they seemed to vie with each other in mad extravagance, which was carried to

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almost

almost an incredible excess. At the end of that time, he began to be re-actuated by some care of his fortunes and safety; and his first wife being dead, he returned to Rome, and espoused Octavia, the sister of Octavius Cæsar, afterwards surnamed Augustus.

Q. Did this marriage expell Cleopatra from his thoughts?

A. It only suspended the gratification of them: Octavia was greatly distinguished for every virtue that could charm a rational mind, but all her merit could not extinguish Anthony's passion for Cleopatra. He gave her Phœnicia, Cyprus, and many other countries, to the great offence of the Romans. At a return from an expedition against the Parthians and Armenians, he stopped in Phœnicia, and sent to Cleopatra to meet him there. His wife, Octavia, had likewise set out from Rome, with large presents for her husband, which, after so long an expedition, she imagined might be peculiarly useful; but he would not suffer her to proceed farther than Athens; and while Anthony passed his time with Cleopatra, Octavia was obliged to return to Rome, without having seen him, nor did she ever after behold him.

Q. How did Octavius bear this treatment of his sister?

A. Not-

A. Notwithstanding her most earnest intreaties urged, even after Anthony had repudiated her, Octavius declared war against Cleopatra, and four years after Anthony's return to that Queen, his fleet gave battle to that of Octavius, in the gulph of Ambracia, near the city of Actium, in Epirus. Cleopatra commanded an Egyptian fleet in this action.

Q. What was the success of it?

A. Fortune seemed to favour Anthony, till Cleopatra, frightened at so unusual a scene, fled with her fleet; Anthony ever infatuated, followed her, leaving his ships engaged, nor did the battle end till night parted them.

Q. What became of Anthony and Cleopatra?

A. They returned to Alexandria: from thence Anthony sent a deputation to Octavius, offering to pass the rest of his life as a private person in Athens, if Octavius would secure the kingdom of Egypt to Cleopatra and her children; for she had one by Cæsar, and two by Anthony, but this not being accepted, they again passed their time in riot and feasting.

Q. How did Octavius employ himself?

A. In a far different manner: he marched to Alexandria, and laid siege to it. Cleopatra's ambition now got the better of

her attachment to Anthony, and she treated privately with Cæsar, to deliver up the city and Anthony to him, on condition that he would secure the crown of Egypt to her.

Q. Did Octavius comply with this condition?

A. He evaded giving her an explicit answer: but still deluding herself with hopes, she made her fleet submit to Octavius, and to avoid Anthony's resentment, commissioned one of her attendants to tell him she had put an end to her life, to avoid falling into the hands of the conqueror. This intelligence drove Anthony to despair, and unable to survive her he stabbed himself.

Q. Did the city hold out against Octavius after this event?

A. No: it was no longer possible; and he entered it without resistance, and declared to the affrighted inhabitants that he pardoned them.

Q. What became of Cleopatra?

A. She flattered herself that she might still have sufficient charms to captivate the young conqueror; but finding herself disappointed, and perceiving that he intended she should grace his triumph, she concluded the long list of murders she had committed by her own, which she performed by suffering an asp to bite her arm; for having during the
siege

hege tried on condemned criminals every kind of poison, and bites of all venomous animals, she had found that the easiest death was procured by the bite of the aspic. She was thirty-nine years of age when she died.

Q. Did Octavius place any other king in Egypt?

A. No: he reduced it into a Roman Province, and it was ever after governed by a Prefect sent from Rome.

Q. When did this empire end?

A. Thirty years before the christian æra

GEOGRAPHICAL CATECHISM.

LESSON XVIII.

OF SWITZERLAND.

Q. Where does Switzerland lye?

A. Between the 46th and 48° of north latitude, and the 24th and 28° of east longitude.

Q. What are the boundaries of Switzerland?

A. It is bounded on the north by Swabia, on the west by Sundgau, Burgundy, and the county of Gex. On the south by Savoy, the Milanese, and the territories of Venice; and

on the east by the county of Tyrol, and the Austrian Lordships on this side the Aarberg.

Q. How is Switzerland divided ?

A. Into thirteen cantons, namely :

Chief towns.

Zurich.	Zurich.
Bern.	Bern.
Lucern.	Lucern.
Uri.	Altorff.
Schweiz.	Schweiz.
Unterwalden.	Sarnen and Stanz.
Zug.	Zug.
Glarus.	Glarus.
Basel.	Basel.
Freyburg.	Freyburg.
Solothurn.	Solothurn.
Schaffhausen.	Schaffhausen.
Appenzell.	Appenzell.

Q. Are there not some landgravates belonging to these cantons ?

A. Yes : and are as follows :

Chief towns.

Thurgau.	Frauenfeld.
Rheinthal.	Rheineck.
Sargans.	Sargans.
Gaster.	Shanis and Wessen.
Utznach.	Utznach.
Gams.	Gams.
Baden.	Baden.
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Riviera or Polese.

Laudis.

Luggarus.

Meynthal.

Mendris.

Schwarzenburg.

Murten or Morat.

Grandson.

Eschalens.

Bellenz.

Lugans.

Luggarus.

Civio.

Mendris.

The town of Rapperschwell, with its precinct. The towns of Bremgarten and Meltingen.

Q. What are the allies of Switzerland?

A. Those counties and cities which are summoned to the legislative diet, and have a vote in those assemblies; the principal of which are the abbey and city of St. Gall, the town of Biel, and the united Grisons.

Q. Repeat the vassals of the Grisons.

A. The Veltlin, the counties of Worms and Cleven.

Q. What other states belong and are in alliance with the Switzers?

A. The barony of Haldenstein, the Valais, Muhlhausen, the principality of Neuchatel, the city of Geneva, and part of the temporal lands of the Bishop of Basil.

Q. What is the government of Switzerland?

A. Every canton is absolute within its own jurisdiction, but they differ in the form of their government, some being aristocratical, others democratical; but all affairs which concern the whole body are determined in a general diet, to which each canton sends two deputies. The Protestant and Catholic cantons have likewise separate diets.

Q. What is the air and soil of Switzerland?

A. The air is very cold in winter, the mountains are almost always covered with snow, and the north and south sides of a mountain seem different climates, and have in reality different seasons. It affords great plenty of necessary food, but nothing to tempt its inhabitants to intemperance, or encourage them to luxury. All expence in dress is prohibited, and they are necessarily frugal. Arms is their only trade; life is the commodity with which they traffick; and at the hazard of it they gain their subsistence. While they furnish other Princes with troops, they keep no standing army at home, but have a very well regulated militia. Their poverty, the coldness of their climate, and their occupation, make them hardy and brave. Switzerland was brought,

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brought under the dominion of the Romans by Julius Cæsar.

OF TURKEY, IN EUROPE.

Q. What is the situation of this kingdom ?

A. It lies between the 34th and 48° of north latitude, and the 34th and 57° of east longitude.

Q. How is Turkey in Europe bounded ?

A. On the east by Poland, Russia, Asia, the Black Sea, the Hellespont, or Sea of Marmara, and the Archipelago, on the south by the Mediterranean, on the north by Croatia, Sclavonia, and Transylvania, and on the west by the Adriatic and Dalmatia.

Q. What does it contain ?

A. To the north lies Turkish Illyricum, Bulgaria, part of Little Tartary, Moldavia, and Walachia; in the middle, Macedonia, Romania, and Albania; to the south Thessaly, Livadia. In Greece, properly so called, are the Morea, and the Grecian Isles, the principal of which are Candia, Negropont, Stalimene in the Archipelago. In the Adriatic are the Islands Corfu, Zant, and Cephalonia.

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Q. Which

Q. Which are the principal cities in these different divisions?

A. Belgrade, in Turkish Illyricum; Necopoli, Sophia, and Widim in Bulgaria; Jassy in Moldavia; Tarvis in Walachia; Barschisarai, and Bielgorod in Tartary.

Q. Enumerate the remaining considerable cities.

A. In Macedonia are Salonichi, or Thessalonica; Constantinople, Adrianople, and Philippopoli in Romania; Dulcigno and Durazzo in Albania; Larissa in Janna or Thessaly; Athens, now called Setines, Livadia, Stibes, and Delphi, now Castri, in Livadia; Corinth, Belvedere, Mistra, and others of less note, in the Morea.

OF TRANSYLVANIA.

Q. How is Transylvania bounded?

A. On the north, by Poland, Hungary, and Moldavia; on the east, by Moldavia; on the south, by Walachia, and the Banat of Temeswar; and on the west by Hungary; the chief towns in it are Hermanstadt, the capital; Cronstadt, and Clausenburg.

Q. What is the Hungarian Illyricum?

A. It is composed of the kingdoms of Sclavonia, Croatia, and Dalmatia, which lie between the Rivers Drave and Save, reaching

reaching from the Danube to the Adriatic Sea.

Q. What cities are there in these different kingdoms?

A. In Sclavonia or Effek, Illok, and Verotz; in Croatia, Karlstadt and Warasdin; in Dalmatia, which is divided into four, distinguished in appellation according to the power to which it belongs, namely, the Hungarian, the Venetian, the Ragusian, and Turkish Dalmatia, are the cities of Zengh, Spalatro, Ragusa, a very ancient city. There are many islands belonging to Dalmatia in the Adriatic Sea, the chief of which are Cherso, Pago, Great Hole, Lefina, and Corzola.

Q. What is the government established in Turkey?

A. The Grand Signior's government is despotic, for his subjects esteem implicit obedience as one of the principal points of their religion; and have a firm belief that there is no road to Paradise so sure, as dying by his command. If he orders any man to send him his head, the victim of his suspicion, caprice, or avarice, submits to the fatal stroke, with the resignation of a martyr. The soldiery, indeed, he is obliged to please; and of these the Janissaries are most powerful, but much less so than formerly. The Grand Signior can raise an
army

army of 300,000 men at a small expence, the lands of that country being held by military tenures, which obliges the possessors to maintain a proportionable number of soldiers. The Bashaws and Beglerbegs are under the same obligations. The great sobriety and temperance of the Turks render the expence small, rice, bread, and water being sufficient for their sustenance.

Q. What is the established religion in Turkey?

A. Mahommedanism, to which they are very zealous of making proselytes, not by the force of argument, but by the power of the sword. Most of the great officers of the state are the children of Christians, forcibly taken from their parents, and educated in the Seraglio, where there are large colleges for them. Birth is of no esteem in Turkey; valour is there the only road to preferment.

Q. What is the air and soil in Turkey?

A. In so large an extent of country they must both differ greatly, but in most parts are healthful and fruitful. The Turkish empire is very extensive in Asia.

Q. Of what countries does it consist?

A. Chaldea, Diarbec, Assyria, Turcomania, or Armenia, Georgia, Natolia Proper, Amasia, Aladulia, Caramania, and Syria.

Mifs.

Miss Lenthall is awaked much refreshed and relieved by her sleep. This I know, my dear madam, you will be glad to hear, as it gives a most sensible pleasure to your most sincerely affectionate,

And dutiful daughter,
MARIA MILTON.

LETTER XLIV.

My dear Mamma,

THE favourable circumstance in relation to Miss Lenthall, with which I concluded my last letter, was the beginning of her recovery, and I have the inexpressible joy of observing almost an hourly amendment in her health. There is no longer reason to entertain the least fear for her life; the very weakness from which now arises her chief sufferings is the source of pleasure, since it shews that her fever has nearly left her. I thought I could not have loved her better than I did before, but there is certainly something very endearing in sickness. Compassion increases our tenderness, and the fear of losing a blessing awakens all our sensibility of its worth. But there is still another cause for the increase of my affection

tion by this event. Miss Lenthall's sickness has made a fuller display of her merit. Her admirable patience under her sufferings, the pious resignation with which she welcomed the approaches of expected death; her readiness to leave a world which seemed to offer her all its best enjoyments, together with her tender care for those she was to leave behind, to whose ease or comfort it was in her power to contribute, the consolations she so eloquently administered to her friends, when some symptoms of their affliction would break out before her, all these things, beside many others, exemplified in a thousand instances, have raised affection to veneration, and leads one to think oneself of an inferior order of beings, while one rejoices in the intimate connection with which one is favoured. I feel ashamed at the air of equality I am forced, by custom, to assume, when my conscience tells me how infinitely I am her inferior in those things which form the truest distinction. She seemed so willing to die, that I doubted whether she would be glad to live, but the warm effusions of her gratitude to him who has restored her to life, shews me, that her readiness to resign it proceeded only from the perfect conformity of her will to his, who she thought had seen it good to put a period to her days. I fear
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I should again tire you with this subject, if the joy of having her restored to me, did not deprive me of the power of keeping out of her room; one would imagine I feared losing her if she were out of my sight, for I am restless and uneasy if I am not by her. How greatly repaid by the pleasure I now enjoy for all the pain I have suffered on her account! I hear she enquires for me, so I must leave my lessons to add bulk to my letter.

HISTORICAL CATECHISM

LESSON LXXIII.

Q. The only kingdom of any note, which at last made part of the great empire of Rome, that you have not yet given an account of is Carthage, I shall therefore ask you some questions about it, tho' it will carry us far back from the age you have lately been engaged in. When was the city of Carthage built, by whom, and where situated?

A. Carthage is said to have been built in the year of the world 3135; and 869 before the christian æra. When Joash reigned in Judah, and Jehu in Israel.

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The foundation of it is ascribed to Elifa, by some called Dido; a Princess of Tyre: Ithobal, in Scripture called Ethbaal, King of Tyre, and father to Jezabel, wife to Ahab, King of Israel, was great grandfather to Dido. Her husband, named Acerbas, or Stchæus, being put to death by Pigmalion, King of Tyre, her brother, in order to seize his treasures, she fled the city, finding means to convey her wealth on ship-board, and landed in Africa, not far distant from Tunis. There she obtained permission to build a town for herself and her followers, to which great numbers from the neighbouring country repaired, and in a short time incorporated with them. She engaged to pay a tribute to the Africans for the ground allowed her.

Q. What kind of government did she establish? For to know something of that may be necessary to the better understanding the history.

A. The accounts we have are but imperfect: thus much indeed we may gather, that it was a mixed government, composed of three different authorities, the *suffetes*, the senate, and the people. The *Suffetes* were two supreme magistrates chosen annually. The senate was composed of the most considerable by birth, riches, and age; but the number of senators is unknown.

known. When they were unanimous they decided on all affairs without appeal. The Suffetes presided in this assembly. If the senate was divided in opinion, the affair was then brought before the assembly of the people, and the power of decision devolved on them.

Q. Was there not a council called the tribunal of the hundred ?

A. Not at the first establishment: nor indeed is the time of that institution well known, but by the intent of this council, which was composed of an hundred and four persons, whose office was for life, it appears to have owed its rise to some encroachments made by the nobles or the senate, for its business runs to examine into the conduct of the generals or other great officers of the republic, and punish or reward them as they appeared to merit.

Q. What was the religion of Carthage ?

A. The most cruel kind of idolatry: their principal deities were Urania, or the Moon; and Saturn, called Moloch in Scripture. To the latter they offered human sacrifice, particularly children; and it was usual for mothers to be present at this savage offering of their own children, without shewing any tokens of concern; the least symptom of natural affection, or even humanity on those occasions, being deem-
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ed. criminal. Some of their enemies, when they had gained a great superiority over them, particularly Darius Hyaspas, King of Persia, and Gelon, tyrant of Syracuse, made it a condition of the peace they granted them, that they should abstain from human sacrifices, but they observed this article no longer than they feared the power of him who prescribed it.

Q. Did Dido long enjoy her new settlement?

A. That is not well known: but we may reasonably suppose not very long, since we are told her death was occasioned by a passion Iarbas, King of Getulia, conceived for her, who having demanded her in marriage, and threatened to declare war against her in case of a refusal, she, who had bound herself by an oath to Sichæus never to engage in second nuptials, killed herself, at once to secure the completion of her vow, and to save her infant state from the dangers of a war. This transaction I look upon as a proof, that Dido was still young, for had her city been the object of Iarbas's addresses, her death must have given him a very favourable opportunity of seizing it, which it does not appear that he did.

Q. I think you have founded your argument on very good grounds. Did the Carthagenians soon extend their state?

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A. Their history is very obscure, being seldom illustrated by dates. We know that they conquered great part of Africa, the Island of Sardinia, the Islands called Balears, now named Minorca and Majorca, the western coast of Spain, from the ocean to the Pyrenean Hills, and the coasts of the Mediterranean, as far as the River Iberus; but when, or by what means is little known. They built the city of Carthage on the Mediterranean coast.

Q. Did they not make considerable conquests in Sicily?

A. Of this we have more particular accounts, though we are ignorant when they first entered it. But when Xerxes meditated a war with Greece, he entered into a league with the Carthagenians, who, on their part, engaged to invade such Greeks as were settled in Sicily and Italy, while Xerxes marched into Greece.

Q. Were the Carthagenians more successful in their enterprize than their great Ally, Xerxes, was in his?

A. As their cause, so their success was the same: the Carthagenians fitted out a prodigious force, both naval and land armies, which laid siege to Hymera, a city near Palermo, but Gelon, prince, rather than tyrant of Syracuse, since we have now annexed a different meaning to that appellation.

lation than it then bore, hastened to the relief of the Hymerians, and gained a complete victory over the Carthagenians on the same day, with the famous battle of Thermopylæ; the slaughter was incredible; the general perished in the action; and the fleet was burnt. As some reparation for what they suffered, they had the good fortune to obtain peace of Gelon on very reasonable terms.

Q. When was the next expedition of the Carthagenians into Sicily?

A. Soon after the defeat of the Athenian fleet, before Syracuse, wherein Nicias, the commander, perished. The people of Segesta had declared for the Athenians, and seeing them no longer in a condition to protect their allies, they feared the resentment of the Selinuntians, and called in the Carthagenians to their aid, who were glad of every opportunity of extending their conquests in that island.

Q. What success had they in this enterprize?

A. They took the cities of Selinuntum, Hymera, and Agrigentum, then one of the richest cities in the world, filled with the finest pictures, statues, and every work of art, which the conquerors sent, together with the bull of Phalaris to Carthage, and having exercised the greatest cruelty towards

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wards the inhabitants, destroyed these cities. After which, the war was concluded by a treaty of peace with Dionysius, then tyrant of Syracuse, having succeeded Gelon.

Q. When was this peace made?

A. About 392 years before the Christian æra.

HISTORICAL CATECHISM.

LESSON LXXIV.

Q. Was the peace between Carthage and Syracuse of long continuance?

A. No longer than till Dionysius had made such warlike preparations, as gave him reason to think he might infringe it with advantage; for he had entered into that agreement only with a view of establishing himself well in the government, of which he had but just made himself master. He then began hostilities, by causing to be massacred all the Carthaginians, who, in confidence of the peace that subsisted, were settled in Syracuse.

Q. What was the event of a war so treacherously commenced?

A. As the Carthaginians had not foreseen Dionysius's design, he took some of their

their cities in Sicily, before their army could get thither, but these they recovered, and besieged Syracuse, with so great a force, that it was reduced to the last extremity, and must have surrendered, had not a contagious disease spread itself in the Carthaginian camp, and made such havock, that Dionysius found it an easy conquest. As soon as Imilcon, the Carthaginian general, arrived at Carthage, he put an end to his life, and thereby prevented a public execution, for it was usually the barbarous custom of that people to revenge on the general the bad success of an enterprize.

Q. What followed this defeat?

A. Carthage was attacked by a prodigious body of Africans, which occasioned an universal terror in that city, more addicted to trade and commerce than to war, for their armies were composed of mercenaries; but that enormous multitude having no leader, quarrelled among themselves, and dispersed. Fresh troops were sent into Sicily and again defeated; but a new army arriving there, so well recovered the affairs of the Carthaginians, that a treaty of peace was agreed to by Dionysius, whereby the island was left in the same state as before the war.

Q. Did Dionysius observe this treaty better than the former?

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A. Yes: the peace continued till his death, and some years after. He had been succeeded by his son of the same name; who, after having been expelled by the Syracusans, had regained the tyranny by force of arms, and used his newly recovered power with so much cruelty, that part of the citizens had recourse to Iceres, tyrant of the Leontines, and others implored the aid of the Corinthians, who sent Timoleon to their assistance. The Carthagenians considered these dissensions as favourable to their views, and sent a very powerful fleet under pretence of assisting Iceres, but Timoleon frustrated all their attempts, and afterwards with only six thousand men defeated an army of above seventy thousand; took several towns, and the Carthagenians being reduced to sue for peace, could obtain it only by relinquishing a great part of their possessions in Sicily; while Timoleon restored liberty and prosperity to Syracuse.

Q. Could the Carthagenians acquiesce patiently in this abridgement of their territory?

A. We do not find that they endeavoured to recover it till near thirty years after, when Agathocles, a Sicilian of obscure birth, had risen to the tyranny of Syracuse. They defeated Agathocles, and obliged him to shut himself up in Syracuse, which
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they besieged, and there seemed nothing to oppose their success, which must have been followed by the reduction of the whole island.

Q. What course did Agathocles take in such extremity?

A. In the year 310 before Christ he committed the defence of the city to his brother, and set sail with thirteen or fourteen thousand men, without communicating the destination of his little army to any one, till he arrived in Africa. He then set fire to his fleet, for the defence of which he could not spare soldiers, and marched directly towards Carthage. An universal horror spread through the city; an army composed of citizens were sent out against him, but these he defeated. The Carthaginians recalled their army from before Syracuse, which was what Agathocles had in view, by this bold enterprize.

Q. Did the return of these troops bring any degree of tranquility to the city?

A. Agathocles was not the only source of distress to Carthage. Bomilcar, one of its principal citizens, took advantage of the favourable opportunity the general confusion seemed to offer him to seize the sole government, and erect a tyranny.

Q. Was he successful in his attempt?

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A. Far otherwise: before the citizens had leisure to arm themselves, and repel an injustice of which they had not conceived a suspicion, he slaughtered a great number: but a general amnesty being proclaimed to his followers, if they would lay down their arms, they all deserted him, and he was taken and crucified. Nor was this all the Carthaginians suffered, superstitiously attributing their misfortunes to a neglect of the proper human sacrifices, it having become a custom for the rich, to purchase the children of slaves and beggars to offer to their gods in lieu of their own; they now sacrificed two hundred children of the noblest birth in the city, and above three hundred persons voluntarily offered themselves as expiatory victims, which must add great private distress to the public calamity.

2. Did Agathocles continue victorious?

A. His affairs in Africa being in so prosperous a condition he repaired to Syracuse, where he was equally successful, till hearing, that since his absence he was deprived of almost all his African conquests, he returned thither; where finding it impossible to put his affairs into any tolerable posture, and being destitute of ships to convey back his troops, he fled away privately, leaving them and his two sons under

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the command of the eldest of them Archagathus.

Q. What became of his little army?

A. The soldiers murdered Archagathus and his brother, and then surrendered to the enemy. Agathocles was soon after poisoned by the contrivance of Archagathus his grandson, who discovered, that he intended to deprive him of the succession in favour of his son Agathocles.

Q. Did the Carthaginians, after this, enjoy their possessions in Sicily unmolested?

A. By no means: in a few years Pyrrhus invaded the island, and with great rapidity conquered all the Carthaginians held there, except the city of Lilibeum; but then being obliged to return, the Carthaginians recovered what they had lost, and retained it till attacked by a more powerful enemy, the Romans.

Q. When did their war with Pyrrhus end?

A. In the year 274 before Christ, after continuing six years; and thirty-six years after the invasion of Africa by Agathocles.

I intended to have made some farther addition to my letter, but in reading to Miss Lenthall I forgot the time as it passed, and learned the hour only by my letters being

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ing called for. She desires I would say much for her in excuse for her having engrossed so much of my time; but the loss is mine, as it is impossible any thing I could have said should have given you equal pleasure to what I feel in writing to you; but I consider my omissions in this particular, as an occasional necessity, which will not long continue. The present call upon me will soon end, in Miss Lenthall's restored health, while I hope, through life, to have continual opportunities of communicating every thought, and every wish of my heart to my dear mamma, and of telling her how sincerely I am her most dutiful

And affectionate daughter,

MARIA MILTON.

L E T T E R XLV.

IN the present transport of my heart, how shall I acquire sufficient composure of mind, to tell my dear mamma the smallest part of the joy her letter gave me! Shall I then be again restored to that dear society which must ever be esteemed my greatest happiness! Again be under the care, the instruction, the guidance of the best, the tenderest of parents! May my dear grand-

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father receive the reward of this goodness to me, in a degree proportionate to the joy it gives me! And may the complacence he must feel in this kind action, yield him so sincere a pleasure, as to tempt him to convert the permission he gives me of attending him and you for the approaching holidays, into a desire for my remaining always with you! But should this not prove the case, should I return again to a school, where, next to his house, I would most wish to fix my abode, if I may but repeat this delightful visit every breaking up, the pleasures of recollection and anticipation will enable me better to support enforced absences; and though not thoroughly gratified, I shall be grateful and contented: thankfully receive the joy he bestows on me, and patiently acquiesce in the mortification he exacts.

It gives me great satisfaction, that you approve my conduct in regard to Miss Lenthall; and nothing could more strongly express your affection for me, than your telling me, you should have been most sensibly hurt, had I preferred my own safety to the care and consolation of a friend; it shews the noblest kind of tenderness for me, those who are more anxious for our health, or even life, than for our adherence to a due performance of our duties, have
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not the right sort of love for us. I knew my dear mamma too well to fear she would disapprove a right action. I am so happy as to feel no bad effects from it. The nurse and servant who attended Miss Lenthall are both fallen sick, but Mrs. Wheatley and myself are perfectly well; a blessing, for which we cannot be sufficiently thankful, though I hope, had it proved otherwise, we should not have repented of the cause of it. Miss Lenthall is not informed of the sickness of these two persons, in order to save her from anxiety on their account and on ours. They are, however, not near so ill as she was, and her physician, who also attends them, thinks they are in no danger.

I will endeavour to collect my scattered thoughts, for, indeed, joy has thrown them into strange confusion, and will write my thanks to my grandfather for his kind invitation; but I am sure my words will be very inadequate to my sensations, and I hope he will not measure my gratitude by my acknowledgements, for that would not be doing them justice; words are not equal to my sentiments on the occasion; an orator could not express them, how far short then must I fall!

HISTORICAL CATECHISM.

LESSON LXXV.

Q. When did the war between the Romans and Carthaginians, called the first Punic war, break out?

A. In the year 264 before the Christian æra.

Q. What gave rise to it?

A. A contest about the city of Messina in Sicily: the inhabitants, who had assumed the name of Mamertines, finding a protector against the Syracusans necessary for their support, differed in their choice, and the consequence of this dissention was, that one party surrendered the citadel to the Carthaginians, the other called in the Romans to their assistance.

Q. Did the Romans accept this invitation?

A. The vicinity of Messina to the coasts of Italy, rendered it very dangerous to them to have it in the hands of so powerful an enemy; they obeyed, therefore, the call with all possible expedition, and drove the Carthaginians out of the citadel; for the loss of which this merciless people put their general to death, and besieged the city,

city; but their army, with that of Hiero, who had, by the united suffrages of the Syracusans, been appointed their King, was defeated by the Romans, the city relieved, that of Agrigentum afterwards taken, and Hiero gained over to their alliance.

Q. What were the consequences of a beginning so unprosperous to the Carthaginians?

A. They sent fresh armies into Sicily, and as their Maritime strength was great, little feared an enemy who had yet confined its conquests chiefly to the little continent wherein it was situated; but the Romans, sensible of their disadvantage in this respect, equipped a fleet, and employed it so successfully, as to gain two naval victories over the Carthaginians.

Q. What use did the Romans make of their success?

A. They carried their arms into Africa; took several places; laid waste the country; defeated the army with which the Carthaginians opposed them, and filled the whole city with terror; but a body of Grecians, commanded by Xanthippus, the Lacedemonian, arriving very opportunely to their relief, they hazarded another battle under his conduct, in their turn gained a complete victory, and took Regulus, the Ro-

man general, prisoner, who is said to have been put to the most cruel death, some years after, by the Carthaginians. And, according to some historians, their deliverer Xanthippus met with no better fate, he and his little army being treacherously destroyed by those whom they had rescued from destruction. Other writers say, that well acquainted with the ingratitude and mean jealousy of the Carthaginians, he withdrew from the city before their base intentions against him were perpetrated.

Q. What turn did the war take after this event, so favourable to the Carthaginians?

A. The next engagement was at sea, wherein the Romans were victorious, but their fleet was afterwards destroyed by a storm, and they met with the like misfortune the next year; but the success of their land forces afforded them some consolation, by defeating the Carthaginians in Sicily, who were commanded by Asdrubal; after which they laid siege to Lillybæum.

Q. Did they take that city?

A. No: The besieged made so vigorous a defence, that the Romans seeing no prospect of getting it soon into their possession, changed the siege into a blockade, and failing to Drepanum, attacked the Carthaginian fleet under the command of Adherbal, and received a total defeat.

Q. Did

Q. Did the Carthaginians gain any considerable advantage by this victory?

A. It does not appear that any action of moment passed in Sicily for the next five years: Hamilchar Barcha commanded in that island for the Carthaginians, and by his conduct and courage, kept the Romans at bay, till another naval engagement near Depranum, wherein Hanno being admiral of the Carthaginians, Lutatius of the Romans, the latter were victorious.

Q. What were the consequences of this victory?

A. The Romans being now masters of the sea, the Carthaginians were deprived of all means of sending supplies either of men or provisions to their army in Sicily, therefore empowered Barcha to act as he thought proper; who, perceiving the necessity of a peace, proposed it to the Romans; and being much exhausted by so long a war they consented to it.

Q. On what terms?

A. The conditions were, that the Carthaginians should entirely evacuate all Sicily.—No longer make war on Hiero, the Syracusans, or their allies.—Restore to the Romans, without ransom, all the prisoners they had taken from them.—Pay immediately a thousand talents.—And

within ten years two thousand two hundred more.—It was likewise stipulated, that the Carthaginians should depart out of all the islands situated between Sicily and Italy.

Q. When was the first Punic war put an end to by this treaty?

A. 242 Years before Christ: after having continued twenty-three years.

Q. Did this treaty restore peace to the Carthaginians?

A. No: their war with the Romans was no sooner ended, than they were engaged in one with the Africans, sustained by the mercenary troops which had served them against the Romans.

Q. What was the occasion of this war?

A. The Mercenaries required to be paid more than the stipend agreed upon, and the Carthaginians refused to pay them even what was due. This injustice so highly exasperated them, that they declared war against Carthage, and placed at their head two violent and bad men, named Spendius and Matho. All Africa joined them, desirous of shaking off the yoke of Carthage, which had been rendered extremely heavy, by the enormous taxations laid upon them during the war with Rome, and exacted with the greatest rigour and cruelty.

Q. What was the event of this war?

A. There

A. There never was a greater scene of barbarity than Africa now exhibited : the rebels put to the most cruel deaths all the Carthaginians that fell into their hands ; and these, in return, threw to wild beasts all the prisoners they took. As the Carthaginians had in all their wars trusted to mercenary troops, they were ill prepared for defence ; however, they exerted themselves to the utmost of their abilities ; all the citizens who were capable of bearing arms were enrolled ; but they succeeded ill under the command of Hanno, whereupon Barcha was placed at the head of their army.

Q. Was he more successful ?

A. He was : soon after he was appointed he defeated the rebels, and killed ten thousand of them ; but still they continued strong enough to lay siege to Carthage, but Barcha obliged them to raise it, yet they continued the war : till at length Hamilchar, who had succeeded to Barcha, shut them up in a spot from whence they had no means of escaping without fighting their way through his army ; this they durst not attempt, being deficient in horses and elephants, with which Hamilchar was well provided.

Q. How did the rebels act in this emergency ?

A. They

A. They fortified their camp in the strongest manner, but were soon attacked by a stronger enemy within it; provisions failed them, and they were reduced to such excess of hunger, that at length they eat their prisoners, then their slaves, till all these being devoured, the soldiers obliged their chiefs to treat with Hamilchar, who granting them a safe conduct, they went to him, and it was agreed that the Carthagenians should select out of them ten men to punish as they should think fit, and the rest be allowed to depart.

Q. Were these conditions performed?

A. No: when the treaty was signed, the Carthagenians seized the chiefs, and the rebel army, thinking they were betrayed took up arms, Hamilchar surrounded them, and they all, to the amount of above forty thousand, were slain.

Q. Did this destruction put an end to the war?

A. That was not to be effected but by another battle, wherein the Carthagenians were again victorious, after which all Africa was once more reduced to submit to its former subjection.

Q. Did the consequences of the rebellion in Africa reach no farther than that continent?

A. They

A. They extended to Sardinia : for the mercenary troops there, hearing of the revolt of those in Africa, murdered the Carthagenian, who was general over them, and afterwards slew all of that country who were in the island.

Q. When they had destroyed the Carthagenians did they keep possession of Sardinia ?

A. No : they were themselves driven out by the natives, and reduced to fly into Italy, where they prevailed with the Romans to seize that Island ; and though the Carthagenians complained of this action, the melancholy state of their affairs obliged them to consent to a treaty, whereby they ceded it to the Romans, and engaged to pay an additional tribute.

Q. In what year did the Carthaginians lose Sardinia ?

A. In the year 231 before the Christian æra.

HISTORICAL CATECHISM.

LESSON LXXVI.

Q. Could the Carthaginians patiently bear the loss of Sardinia ?

A. They

A. They were too much weakened by their late wars to resist the power of the Romans, but their resentment for this injury, and the additional tribute, was not mitigated by being restrained from breaking out into action. No man felt it with more sensibility than Hamilchar Barcha, who, from that time, thought of nothing but of enabling his countrymen to revenge on the Romans what they had suffered from them. He had given such evident proofs of his courage and conduct, that he was appointed general of the army then maintained by the Carthaginians in Spain; whither he carried his young son Hannibal, then but nine years of age, after having made him swear on the altars of the Gods of his country, that he would ever be an irreconcilable enemy to the Romans.

Q. Did Barcha distinguish himself in Spain?

A. He commanded there nine years, and after having subdued the greatest part of the various nations that then inhabited Spain, he was killed in battle. His son-in-law, Asdrubal, was appointed to succeed him. Asdrubal built there a city, to which he gave the name of New Carthage, now called Carthagena, and was so successful, that at length the Romans took the alarm,
and

and entered into a treaty with him, whereby they acquiesced in the Carthaginians possessing all they had conquered in Spain, on condition that they should not attempt any thing beyond the River Iberus; the city of Saguntum, though within the limits set to the Carthaginians, was excluded from what was allowed to them, on account of its being an ally of the Romans. Asdrubal still continued to prosecute his victories, and establish his conquests, yet without infringing the treaty; but after having commanded there eight years, he was killed by a Gaul, whose master had been slain by Asdrubal.

Q. Who succeeded Asdrubal?

A. Hannibal, the son of Hamilchar Barcha, who had so early sworn eternal enmity to the Romans, a vow to which he strictly adhered, and which reduced that powerful nation to the greatest extremities, never having had so great a general to contend with, history scarcely recording one of more consummate abilities.

Q. In what manner did Hannibal act after he was made general of the Carthaginian forces?

A. His first act of hostility against the Romans was laying siege to the city of Saguntum, and while the Romans employed themselves only in sending fruitless deputations

deputations to Hannibal, and to Carthage, complaining of this breach of faith, he reduced it to such extremity, that the besieged not being able to obtain tolerable conditions from Hannibal, the principal senators of Saguntum caused all the gold and silver in the public treasury, and every thing valuable of their own, to be brought into the market place, and threw it all, and afterwards themselves, into a fire lighted for that purpose. At the same time a breach being made in the walls by the besiegers they entered the city, and put to the sword all the Saguntines who were of age to bear arms; a cruelty which redounds as much to the dishonour of Hannibal as of the Romans who occasioned this calamity, by neglecting to give timely aid to so brave an ally. This was the immediate cause of the second Punic war, for the Romans hereupon, too late, declared war against Carthage.

Q. When did the second Punic war begin?

A. 218 Years before Christ.

Q. What course did Hannibal take on the breaking out of this war?

A. He determined to march his troops into Italy: and this not being an intention newly formed, he had before got all possible intelligence concerning the places thro' which

which he was to pass, and having taken much spoil at Saguntum, notwithstanding the endeavours of the Saguntine senators to prevent it, as well as in other places, he made the best use of it by rewarding his soldiers, gaining the favour of his citizens, and purchasing the good will of some of the chiefs of such Gallic nations, whose territories lay in his way. Early in the spring he set out from new Carthage, and having crossed the Iberus, he subdued all that part of Spain through which he marched; he then passed the Pyrenean Mountains, and coming to the Rhone, conveyed over his army and his elephants in boats and on floats of timber, but this could not be effected without a battle with the Gauls, in which he was victorious.

Q. Was this the most difficult part of his march?

A. By no means: he had then the Alps to pass, an enterprize the most arduous that ever was undertaken, especially if we consider that part of the strength of his army consisted in elephants. He had not only the difficulty of the ways, the snow, the ice, the precipices to encounter, but the savage inhabitants of those mountains, who annoyed him with their darts, and were ready to seize every opportunity of advantage; their knowledge of the place,
and

and their habit of climbing up the steepest ascents, rendering nothing of that kind difficult to them. But all this, by his conduct, his patience, and by the art with which he animated his soldiers to bear such amazing dangers and difficulties, he overcame. In one place he was obliged to cut a way through the hard rock for the passage of his army, in what manner is still disputed; some authors tell us that it was done by burning great quantities of fuel on the rock, till it was made exceeding hot, and then pouring vinegar on it, the corrosive acid eat through the rock; but this seems incredible, and is surely contrary to reason; however, thus much is certain, he opened a passage for his army, and in September descended into the plains of Italy, with twenty thousand foot, and six thousand horse, about a third of the number which he had brought out of Spain, so greatly had he suffered in this long and extraordinary march.

Q. Where was he first met by the Romans?

A. Near the small River Tecinus, now called Tesino in Lombardy. The Roman army was commanded by Publius Scipio, who being grievously wounded in the battle, was rescued out of the enemy's hands by his son, then only seventeen years of age;

age; but this accident, in great measure, occasioned the defeat of his troops, and with great precipitation they retreated; and passing the Po, broke down the bridges that were built over that river, to prevent the Carthaginians from pursuing them.

GEOGRAPHICAL CATECHISM.

LESSON XIX.

Q. Which are the principal European isles?

A. The most considerable in the western ocean are as follows: The Britannic, consisting of Great Britain and Ireland; the Orkneys, the Western isles, the Schetland isles, the isle of Iceland, with many others of less note. The chief islands in the Baltic Sea are Zeeland, Funen, Alsen, Longland, Laaland, Falster, Mona, Bornholm, Gothland, Aland, Rugen, Osel, Dagho, Usedom, Wollin.

Q. What are those in the Mediterranean Sea?

A. Ivica, Majorca, Minorca, Corsica, Sardinia, and Sicily; with many more less considerable in the Archipelago. In the Adriatic and Ionian Seas are Lieffina, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zant, and Leucadia.

Q. As

Q. As Great Britain makes no inconsiderable figure in Europe, I must desire you will inform me how England is bounded? what its situation? and how it is divided?

A. England is bounded on the North by Scotland, on the East by the German Ocean, on the South by the English Channel, which divides it from France, and on the West by St. George's Channel, and the Irish Sea, is situated between the 50° and 56° of North latitude, and the $11^{\circ} 40'$ and the $19^{\circ} 25'$ of East longitude. It is divided into six circuits, which are subdivided into counties.

Q. Name those six circuits you mention.

A. The Home, Norfolk, Oxford, Midland, Western, and Northern circuits.

Q. How are these circuits subdivided?

A. Into the following counties:

Counties.	Chief Towns.
Home Circuit.	Chelmsford, Colchester, and Harwich.
Essex.	
Hertford.	Hertford, St. Albans, Royston,
	Ware, Hitchen, and Baldoc.

Kent.

Counties.	Chief Towns.
Kent.	Maidstone, Canterbury, Chatham, Rochester, Greenwich, Woolwich, Dover, Deal, and Deptford.
Surry.	Southwark, Kingston, Guildford, Croydon, Epsom, Richmond.
Suffex.	Chichester, Lewis, Rye, East-Grimstead, and Hastings.
Norfolk Circuit.	Aylesbury, Buckingham, Much-
Bucks.	Wickham, and Marlow.
Bedford.	Bedford, Ampthiel, Woburn, Dunstable, Luton, and Biggleswade.
Huntington.	Huntington, St. Ives, and Kimbolton.
Cambridge.	Cambridge, Ely, Newmarket, and Royston.

Counties.

Counties.	Chief Towns.
Suffolk.	Bury, Ipswich, Sudbury, Leostoff, and part of Newmarket.
Norfolk.	Norwich, Thetford, Lynn, and Yarmouth.
Oxford Circuit.	Oxford, Banbury, Chipping - Norton, Henly, Burford, Whitney, Dorchester, and Woodstock.
Oxon.	
Berks.	Abingdon, Windsor, Reading, Wallingford, Newbury, Hungerford, and Maidenhead.
Gloucester.	Gloucester, Tewksbury, Cirencester, and part of Bristol.
Worcester.	Worcester, Evesham, and Droitwich.
Monmouth.	Monmouth, and Chepstow.
Hereford.	Hereford and Lemster.
	Counties.

Counties.	Chief Towns:
Salop.	Shrewsbury, Ludlow, Bridgnorth, and Wenlock.
Stafford.	Stafford, Litchfield, and Newcastle-under-Line.
Midland Circuit.	Leicester, Melton-
Leicester.	Mowbury, and Ashby de la Zouch.
Derby.	Derby, Chesterfield, and Ashburn.
Nottingham.	Nottingham, Southwell, and Newark.
Lincoln.	Lincoln, Stamford, Boston, and Grantham.
Rutland.	Oakham, and Uppingham.
Northampton.	Northampton, Peterborough, and Daventry.
Western Circuit.	Winchester, Southampton, Portsmouth, Andover, Basingstoke,
Hants.	Christ - church, and Newport, in the Isle of Wight.

Counties.	Chief Towns.
Wilts.	Salisbury, Devizes, Marlborough, Malmesburg, Wil- ton, and Chip- penham.
Dorset.	Dorchester, Lyme, Sherborn, Shafts- bury, Pool, Blan- ford, and Brid- port.
Somerset.	Bath, Wells, Part of Bristol, Taun- ton, Bridgwater, and Ilchester.
Devon.	Exeter, Plymouth, Barnstaple, Bid- deford, Liverton, Dartmouth, Ta- vistock, Top- sham, and Oak- hampton.
Cornwall.	Launceston, Fal- mouth, Truro, Saltash, Bodmyn, St. Ives, Padstow, and Tregony.

Counties.

Counties.	Chief Towns.
Northern Circuit.	York, Leeds, Wakefield, Halifax, Bradford, Rippon, Pontefract, Hull, Richmond, Scarborough, Boroughbridge, Malton, Sheffield, Doncaster, Witby, Beverley, Northallerton, and Burlington.
Durham.	Durham, Stockton, Sunderland, Stanhope, Barnard-Castle, and Aukland.
Northumberland.	Newcastle, Berwick, Tinmouth, Shields, and Hexham.
Lancaster.	Lancaster, Manchester, Preston, Liverpool, and Wigan.
Westmoreland.	Appleby, Kendal, and Lonsdale.
Cumberland.	Carlisle, Penrith, Cockermouth, and Whitehaven.
	Q. Pray

Q. Pray why have you omitted Middlesex and Cheshire?

A. The former being the seat of the supreme Court of Justice, and Cheshire being a county Palatine, neither are included in any Circuit.

Q. Pray what towns do these counties contain?

Counties.

Chief Towns.

Middlesex.

London, Westminster, Uxbridge, Brentford, Barnet, Highgate, Hampstead, Kensington, Hackney, and Hampton-court.

Cheshire.

Chester, Nantwich, Macclesfield, and Malpas.

Q. How is Wales divided?

A. Into four circuits, namely, North East, North West, South East, South West circuits.

Q. Are not these circuits subdivided into counties?

A. Yes: and are as follows:

Counties.

Chief Towns.

North East Circuit.
Flint.

Flint, St. Asaph, and Holywell.

Counties.

Counties.	Chief Towns.
Denbigh.	Denbigh, Wrex- ham, and Ruthyn.
Montgomery.	Montgomery and Llanvlyn.
Anglesea.	Beaumaris, Llanrick Mead and Holy- head.
North-west Circuit Carnarvon.	Bangor, Conway, and Pullilly.
Merioneth.	Delgelheu, Bala, and Harley.
Radnor.	Radnor and Pres- tean.
Brecon.	Brecknock.
South-east Circuit. Glamorgan.	Landaff and Car- diff.
South-west Circuit.	St. David's Haver- fordwest, Pem- broke, Denbigh, and Milfordha- ven.
Pembroke.	
Cardigan.	Cardigan and Abe- rystwith.
Caermarthen.	Caermarthen, and Kidwelly.

OF SCOTLAND.

Q. How is Scotland divided ?

O 2

A. Into

M. Into north, middle, and south.

Q. Enumerate the counties and chief towns, that are in the southern part.

<i>A.</i> Counties.	Chief Towns.
Berwick.	Berwick and Duns.
East Lothian.	Dunbar and Haddington.
Mid Lothian.	Edinburgh.
West Lothian.	Linlithgow.
Tweeddale or Peebles.	Peebles.
Selkirk.	Selkirk.
Tiviotdale.	Boxburg, and Jedburg.
Liddisdale, Eskdale, and Eusdale, belong to this shire.	
Dumfries, consisting of Annandale, Niddisdale, and Wachopdale.	Dumfries and Annand.
The Stewartry of Kirkendbright.	Kirkenbright.
Wigton.	Wigton.
Air, consisting of three Bailiwicks, viz. Carrick, Ryle, and Cunningham.	Maybole, Air, and Irwin.
Renfrew.	Renfrew.

Lanerk,

Counties.	Chief Towns.
Lanerk.	Lanerk and Glas-
Sterling.	gow.
Clackmanan.	Sterling.
Fife.	Clackmanan.
Kinrofs.	St. Andrew's.
Dumbarton.	Kinrofs.
Bute, which con-	Dumbarton.
sists of the Isles	
of Bute and Ar-	
ran.	

2. Describe Mid-Scotland.

A. Inverary, which	
contains Argyle	
proper.	Inverary.
Cowel, Lorn, Knap-	
dale, Kantyre, the	
Isles of Ila, Juræ,	
Lifmore, Mull,	
St. Culumbus,	
Tyre-y, or Tyrree,	
Coll, South Vift,	
and North Vift.	
Perthshire contains	
Braidalbin, Stra-	
thern, Perth,	Perth, Menteith,
Scoon, and Athol.	and Dunkeld.

Counties.	Chief Towns.
Angus or Forfar.	Forfar.
Kincardineshire.	Kincardin.
Aberdeen.	New Aberdeen, Old Aberdeen.
Bamff.	Bamff.
Elgin and Nairn.	Elgin and Nairn.

Q. What does North Scotland contain?

A. The following shires.

Counties,	Chief Towns.
Inverness.	Inverness.
Cromartie, and Tayne, to which belongs the Isles of Skye and Lewis.	Cromartie, Tayne, Tarbot.
Dornock, which contains Suther- land, and Strath- naven.	Dornock.
Caithness.	Wich.
The Stewarthy of	

Orkney and Shetland, which contains
the Northern Isles, the principal of which
are the Orkneys and the Isles of Shetland.

OF IRELAND.

Q. How is Ireland divided ?

A. Into four large parts : which are subdivided into counties.

Q. Name those four parts.

A. Leinster, Ulster, Connaught, and Munster.

Q. What counties does Leinster contain ?

Counties.

A. Dublin.
Wicklow.
Wexford.
Kilkenny.
Catherlagh.
Kildare.
Queen's County.
King's County.
East Meath.
West Meath.
Longford.

Chief Towns.

Dublin.
Wicklow.
Wexford.
Kilkenny.
Catherlagh.
Kildare.
Mary-borough.
Philip's-Town.
Trim.
Molingar.
Longford.

Q. What does Ulster comprehend ?

Counties.

A. Cavan.
Monaghan.
Louth.
Armagh.
Down.

Chief Towns.

Cavan.
Monaghan.
Drogheda.
Armagh.
Down.

Counties.	Chief Towns.
Antrim.	Carickfergus.
Londonderry.	Londonderry.
Donnegal.	Donnegal.
Tyrone.	Dungannon.
Fermanagh.	Enniskilling.

Q. Describe Connaught.

Counties.	Chief Towns.
A. Leitrim.	Leitrim.
Sligo.	Sligo.
Mayo.	Mayo.
Roscommon.	Athlone.
Gallway.	Gallway.
Clare.	Killalo.

Q. Enumerate the counties of Munster,
Counties.

Counties.	Chief Towns.
A. Tipperary.	Clonmell.
Waterford.	Waterford.
Limeric.	Limeric.
Kerry.	Dingle.
Cork.	Cork.

Q. What is the government established
in England?

A. The English government is a very peculiar limited monarchy: The supreme power resides in King, Lords, and Commons united; and while the balance is properly preserved between them, the liberty of the subject is secure.

Q. What is the religion established
there?

A. It

A. It is called, in common, with many others, the Protestant religion, though differing from them, being reformed by degrees.

Q. Was not Scotland united to England by King James the first's ascending the English throne?

A. No: it from that time indeed became a joint part of the dominions of the Kings of England, and was comprehended under the name of Great-Britain, but it was not subjected to the same laws till the reign of Queen Ann, who completed the union between the two kingdoms.

Q. What is the established religion in Scotland?

A. Calvinism: King James I. and his son King Charles, introduced episcopacy; but in the beginning of King William's reign, Calvinism was again restored.

Q. What is the established religion in Ireland?

A. The same as is professed by the church of England: but the greatest number of the people, especially the lower sort, are Roman Catholics, notwithstanding the endeavours that have been used to convert them.

If I were not to send my grand pappa a letter till I could write one that pleased me,

I fear he would never receive my thanks, so inadequate are any words I can find to my sensations, but if he could see into my heart he would pardon any deficiency in my expressions; and in the hope he will be acquainted with it, for mine is pretty obvious on even a short acquaintance, I venture to beg you will give him the inclosed, and that you will believe me, my dear-mamma, your most happy and affectionate daughter,

MARIA MILTON.

LETTER XLVI.

My dear Mamma,

AS there are still three days to come before the completion of all my wishes, I cannot forbear writing you one more letter, though the indulgence I have hitherto found in this kind of address to you seems lessened, and the pleasure of this imperfect kind of conversation appears rather insipid, by the comparison my imagination is continually making between it, and that far more perfect joy I so soon expect, and am continually anticipating in my mind. Miss Lenthall will leave this place the same day, and as part of our road is the same, we shall

shall so far travel together, and perhaps it will be the only time I shall ever part from her without pain; but even she will forgive me for bidding her adieu without regret, since it will be occasioned by my nearer approach towards you. She is so well recovered as to be perfectly able to take the journey, and probably will receive benefit from it. My good friends here are very kind, and were it possible for me on this occasion to feel any pain the taking leave of them would excite it. Several of the young ladies are to pass the holidays here, and among the rest Miss Le Maine and Miss Wilkins; the former is so cared of her follies that it is not necessary, but it will be much to the advantage of the latter to remain under the care of those, whose prudent advice, and rational correction, has already been of great service to her; and I really believe, before the holidays are expired, she will be brought to "talk a little like Folks of this world."

But the following lessons are so long, that to copy them, which must unluckily be the case to-day, will require all my time.

HIS-

HISTORICAL CATECHISM:

LESSON LXXVII.

Q. Did Hannibal continue successful?

A. The advantages he gained in the battle of Ticinus, brought over the greatest part of the Gauls to his side, and he was assisted by them in a second engagement he had with the Romans, commanded by Sempronius, near the little river Trebia in Lombardy, in which he gained a complete victory. He then put his army into winter quarters, where he learnt that the Carthaginians had been less fortunate in Spain, Cneus Scipio having defeated and taken prisoner Hanno their general, and driven them beyond the River Iberus, now called the Ebro.

Q. What events did the next year produce?

A. As soon as the season would permit Hannibal retook the field, and again gave Sempronius battle, but with no considerable advantage on either side. Then marching into Tuscany he encountered a fresh Roman army, commanded by Flaminus the new consul, near the Lake of Thrasymene, and gained a complete victory,

tory, wherein Flaminius and near fifteen thousand Romans were slain. Such an unusual series of ill-fortune occasioned great consternation in Rome, and Quintus Fabius was appointed dictator.

Q. Did this new general alter the face of affairs?

A. He acted in a manner the most distressing to Hannibal; for well knowing the difficulties an army must encounter in an enemies country, and the importance a victory is to them, he avoided fighting; never suffering himself by any art Hannibal could use, to be brought to an engagement beyond slight skirmishes, on occasions when the advantages were apparently on his side; but this conduct displeasing many of his citizens, who imputed it rather to pusillanimity than prudence, Minucius his master of the horse, was appointed his colleague in command.

Q. Had the Romans reason to approve this affront put on their dictator.

A. Far otherwise: Minucius, with his part of the army, (for Fabius had divided it with him) engaged the Carthaginians, and being routed, were rescued by Fabius, who obliged Hannibal to retreat; and from that time Minucius, overcome by the generosity of the dictator, no longer used the power so injudiciously conferred on him; and

and the whole campaign passed away without any decisive action.

Q. Did the Romans proceed in the same manner the next campaign?

A. By no means: the two new consuls, Terentius Varro, and Emilius Paulus, took the field at the head of the greatest army Rome had ever raised, when Hannibal was so reduced by the cautious conduct of Fabius, that he had not provisions for ten days. Varro boasted when he left the city that he would by one decisive action deliver his country from an enemy which might long harass it, were Rome to have only such commanders as Fabius. The two armies met near Cannæ, a small town in Apulia, and coming to an engagement, the Romans were totally routed, with prodigious slaughter. Seventy thousand men are said to have been slain in that battle, and among them the consul Emilius, and a great number of senators of the first note.

Q. What consequences had the victory gained by the Carthaginians at Cannæ?

A. Great part of Italy submitted to the conqueror, and among the rest the city of Capua, the most opulent, and most luxurious city in Italy; and there Hannibal fixing his winter quarters, converted the loss of that place to the benefit of the Romans;

mans; for his soldiers, enervated by the ease and pleasures they enjoyed during the winter, were never again so formidable to their enemies. Beside being corrupted by luxury, his army was extremely diminished by the several battles he had fought; and the faction of Hanno, his inveterate enemy, was so powerful in Carthage, that he could obtain no recruits from thence; it was not therefore to be expected that he should make any considerable progress in Italy; none but a general of his courage and abilities could have kept his ground there so many years, without supplies either of men, money, or provisions from Carthage.

Q. What were the next considerable actions that passed between these two potent enemies?

A. The Romans laid siege to Capua: Hannibal, in order to oblige them to draw off their forces, marched up to the very gates of Rome, and there pitched his camp, but this failed of the effect he aimed at, and the ground whereon he was encamped was sold by auction at Rome for its full value; a bravado which affected him, though less than the account he soon received of the taking of Capua.

Q. Was Hannibal absolutely denied all succours from Carthage?

Q. Not

A. Not entirely : his brother Asdrubal had leave at length to lead an army from Spain into Italy, but Cneus Scipio, and his brother Publius, after a long series of successes in Spain, attacked him in his march, and defeated his army. Three years after, both Scipios were killed in battle, but their deaths were soon after revenged by the Romans, who gained a considerable victory over the Carthaginians; and Publius Scipio, son to him of the same name, who was so lately slain, being sent thither as chief commander, the affairs of the Carthaginians there grew daily more desperate. They suffered also very much in an invasion of Sardinia.

Q. Did Asdrubal renew his attempt of carrying succours to his brother ?

A. His ardour for assisting Hannibal being unabated, he at length conducted an army into Italy, but being attacked by the Romans on the banks of the River Metaurus, his forces, after a most obstinate resistance, were routed, and Asdrubal, determined not to outlive this defeat, rushed into the midst of a Roman cohort, and fought with an intrepidity equal to all the former actions of his life, and worthy the brother of Hannibal, till he was slain.

Q. How

Q. How many years after Hannibal's entering Italy was this battle fought with Asdrubal?

A. Eleven years.

HISTORICAL CATECHISM.

LESSON LXXVIII.

Q. Did Carthage after this event renew the attempt of sending supplies to Hannibal?

A. What was before obstructed only by the influence of a faction envious of the glory of Hannibal, was then out of their power; for Scipio being chosen consul, led his army into Africa, laid waste the country, defeated two armies, one under the command of Syphax, King of part of Numidia, (for that country was divided between him and Massanissa) the other under that of Asdrubal, and laid siege to the city of Utica.

Q. What part did the Carthaginians take on so great an emergency?

A. They recalled Hannibal out of Italy, who obeyed the summons with the most poignant grief. After he came into Africa he obtained an interview with Scipio; in which he endeavoured to agree upon the articles.

articles of a peace; but the conditions required appearing to him too grievous, a battle ensued, wherein the Romans were victorious, and the Carthaginians were obliged to submit to such terms as the victor thought proper to prescribe.

Q. What were the conditions of this peace?

A. The Senate had given full power to Scipio to regulate the terms, which were these:—That the Carthaginians should retain all that they possessed in Africa before the war.—That they should deliver up to the Romans all deserters and captives.—The greatest part of their shipping.—All their tame elephants.—And train up no more.—That they should not make war out of Africa; nor even in it, without previously obtaining leave of the Roman people.—Should restore to Massanissa (who had entered into alliance with the Romans) all that they had dispossessed him of.—And they were beside to pay a great sum of money to the Romans.

Q. When was this peace made which put a period to the second Punic war?

A. 201 Years before the christian æra.

Q. What became of Hannibal after this peace was concluded?

A. He was made Prætor: and equally wise and brave in peace as in war, he undertook

undertook to reform many abuses, which had crept into the government. He caused a law to be enacted, which confined the office of Judge to one year; it had before been perpetual; and now regulated the administration of the finances to the great relief of the people; but the great were offended at the reform he had introduced; and the party once so strong against him was hereby increased. His enemies were continually representing to the Romans that he was endeavouring to excite Antiochus to make war upon them; and their suggestions so far prevailed, that they sent deputies to Carthage to require Hannibal to be delivered up to them.

Q. Was this mean and unjust demand complied with?

A. Hannibal being informed of it made his escape out of the city, and fled to Antiochus, with whom he continued, and endeavoured to assist him with his councils during his war with the Romans, which would probably have ended more favourably to himself; had he followed the advice of Hannibal; but having been subdued by the Romans, and obliged to accept such a peace as they chose to grant him, Hannibal finding that the delivery of his person was one of the articles, again reduced to seek his safety in flight, took refuge

refuge at the Court of Prusias, King of Bithynia, whom he successfully assisted in his war with Eumenes, King of Pergamus, the Ally of the Romans! But here the hatred, shall we say the fears of that people, again pursued him; they demanded him of Prusias, who prepared to comply with their request, but Hannibal deprived him of that power, by taking a poison he always carried about him, he was then seventy years old; but I thought it most adviseable to finish at once all I had to say of Hannibal.

Q. Were the articles of the peace between the Romans and Carthaginians faithfully observed?

A. The Carthaginians were not in a condition to venture to infringe them, but the Romans only kept up a specious appearance of observing them. Massanissa, to whom Syphax's kingdom had been given as an addition to his own, encroached on the Carthaginians, who dared not, without permission from the Roman Senate, repell his encroachments, and this they could not obtain; but were frequently amused by promises of settling the points in dispute, which, however, were always delayed, and Massanissa kept possession of the territory he had seized. These sort of complaints were made for fifty years, and as long eluded; but at length tired out with the evident

evident partiality of the Romans, they ventured to oppose Massanissa, then eighty three years of age, with a considerable army, but he defeated it; and afterwards by treachery his son caused the remainder of the vanquished troops to be massacred.

Q. What consequences had this battle?

A. The Romans made it the chief pretence for declaring war against Carthage, which they found had recovered much of its former strength and riches since the last Punic war.

Q. When did the third Punic war break out?

A. 149 Years before Christ.

Q. What defence did the Carthaginians make?

A. Terrified with the apprehensions of seeing renewed all the misfortunes the last war had occasioned, they offered to give up themselves and all they possessed, into the power of the Romans, in other words submitting to vassalage. But this was not sufficient to content their enemies; they could obtain no explicit answer, but were ordered to send to Lilybæum, as hostages, three hundred youths of the first distinction in Carthage, and afterwards to deliver up all their arms. They complied with both conditions, and then the deputies, waiting for what other demands the consul should give them,

them, were informed, that the Senate required all the citizens to depart from Carthage; the Romans being determined to destroy the city; but that they had liberty to remove into any other part of their dominions, so it were at the distance of eighty stadia, or twelve miles from the sea.

Q. How was so severe a decree received?

A. The deputies endeavoured, by the most earnest and pathetic entreaties, to obtain a mitigation of so severe a sentence, but in vain; they returned in despair to the city, which was thrown by this account into the utmost consternation. Nothing was to be heard but shrieks and lamentations; but when they had given full vent to their grief, indignation began to take its place, and they bravely determined to defend their city to the last moment.

Q. Were they able to make any tolerable defence?

A. They had, indeed, delivered up their arms, but all their artificers were set to work to supply this deficiency; and it was carried on with amazing dispatch. The women joined in this necessary labour, and materials for ropes being wanted, they cut off their hair to supply that necessity. When the Romans found their orders were not complied with, they laid siege to the city, and unexpectedly met with a most vigorous resistance.

resistance. The Carthaginians omitted no opportunity of annoying the besiegers, and took every method of encreasing their forces.

Q. How long did the siege continue?

A. About three years: during the two last summers Scipio, grandson by adoption to him who had so successfully concluded the first Punic war, had the command of the troops, and found from the besieged full employment for his great military abilities. When he took the town by storm, the people retired into the citadel, and there passed the winter. In the spring he attacked both the harbour and the citadel at the same time; the fight continued for six days and nights, without intermission; the soldiers were relieved, but Scipio himself took not one moment's rest.

Q. Did the citadel then surrender?

A. No: on the seventh day a company of men in a suppliant posture and habit appeared, who asked no other condition than that the lives should be spared of such as desired to leave the citadel.

Q. Was this granted?

A. It was granted to all but such as were deserters, and fifty thousand, including both sexes then came out, but the deserters, who were in number about nine hundred, having no hope of quarter, fortified themselves

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in the temple of Æsculapius. Among them was Asdrubal, who had little pretence to favour, having, during the siege, in the sight of the besiegers, put all the Roman prisoners to the most dreadful tortures, and then thrown them from the battlements; but this Asdrubal came privately out of the temple to Scipio, and begged his life. The deserters hereupon set fire to the temple, and the wife of Asdrubal, who was in it, dressing herself in her most splendid attire, shewed herself and her children to Scipio, while the fire was lighting, and calling down imprecations on the head of her husband, as the betrayer of his country, his gods, his wife, and children, she cut the throats of her children, and threw their bodies into the flames, and then rushed into the fire herself, and was imitated by all the deserters. With this act of horror ended the siege of Carthage, which, after the Romans had plundered they set on fire, and we are told it burnt seventeen days before it was all consumed, which gives a great idea of its extent. All the cities that had adhered to Carthage in this war were razed, and the country converted into a Roman Province. Thus with Carthage, as in the ancient history of all other nations, we must conclude with its subjection to the Roman empire.

2. When

Q. When was Carthage destroyed ?

A. 146 Years before the Christian æra.

Thus you see, my dear mamma, our school vacation happens at a convenient period. We have brought the ancient history of every country but Rome to a conclusion, all is now swallowed up in that universal empire. We have also finished the Geography of Europe. After the holidays as many of us as are here, (does not this way of speaking imply a presumptuous hope that I shall not be one?) will begin the Geography of Asia, and the History of Rome by Mr. Hooke; and my governess says, those who are diligent, may, at the proper periods, read Plutarch's Lives of the most distinguished Romans, Cataline's Conspiracy, and the Jugurthine War by Salust, Middleton's Cicero, Cæsar's Commentaries and Tacitus.

We are then to enter on modern history, taking the various countires as they were dismembered from the Roman empire, first perusing Geddes's Account of the inundation of the Northern nations, and Hoffman's Franco Gallia. In her plan she has marked down for the History of France, Pere Daniel, together with Davila's History of the Civil Wars, Les Memoires de Philippe de Comines, du Duc de Sully,

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de la Mere et du Fils, du Cardinal de Retz, et le Siecle de Louis Quatorze.

For Germany, Savage's History of that country, with l'Etat de l'Empire, par du Heisse. For Italy, Guicciardini's Guerra di Italia, Matchiavel's History of Florence, Amelot de la Houffaie's Government de Venise. For Spain, Mariana's History of Spain. Then follows, Grotius's Wars of the Low Countries, Sir William Temple's Account of the Netherlands, and Bentivoglio's Guerre di Fiandra. Vertot's Revolutions de Portugal. For Sweden, Vertot's Revolutions, The Life of Gustavus Ericson, Voltaire's Charles the XIIth, and Bishop Robinson's Account of Sweden. Then Lord Molefworth's Account of Denmark. Fontaine's Revolutions of Poland. For Russia, The Life of Peter the Great, and Voltaire's History of Russia. For Constantinople, Ockley's History of the Saracens, and Knowles's History of the Turks, with Sir Paul Ricaut's Continuation, and his Turkish Polity.

With the History of our own Country, she says, we cannot be too well acquainted, therefore recommends, Rapin's History of England, Lord Lyttelton's Life of Henry the Second, Lord Bacon's of Henry the Seventh, Burnet's History of the Reformation abridged, Camden's Life of Queen Elizabeth,

Elizabeth, Clarendon's History of the Civil Wars, his own Life, and Burnet's History of his own Times.

She intends, that before we begin the history of any country, and after we have finished it, we should read Puffendorf's Introduction to the history of that country; saying, that at the first reading it is like the sketch of a drawing, will give us a general idea, which will be properly opened and enlarged by the perusal of more circumstantial details, and the second reading will help us to reduce those details into regular order, and fix the most important facts in our memories.

During our reading we are carefully to consult our maps on every opportunity; and to keep Blair's Chronology always open before us, and attentively observe what passed at the period we are then engaged in, in all the other countries, the histories of which we have read, not looking at the columns relative to those we have not yet entered upon, as that would only confound us. For without a careful attention to Chronology, she thinks it impossible to avoid great confusion in the study of history, and the use we have found it of in ancient history, sufficiently convinces us of the truth of her opinion. Some additions, she says, will be necessary to the
books:

books marked down in her plan, or we shall find some chasms in our history; and also because few of them come so near our present æra as one would wish.

She tells us she does not design to confine us entirely to the study of history, and books of religion, but to intermix some more particularly intended for amusement, though she has not yet been able to make any great collection of them, having only in poetry Milton, Pope, and Boileau: of Plays, Shakespeare's, Corneille's, Racine's, and Moliere's: of Essays, the Spectators, Guardians, Adventurers, Ramblers, and Idlers; Bruyere's Characters, and Madame Lambert's works, both in French, have likewise their place in our collection.

Those who do not return to school may pursue this course at home, that I may be one of these, is the ardent wish of my dear Mamma's most affectionate,

And dutiful daughter,
MARIA MILTON.

F I N I S .



